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Palestinian Affairs

Delegation Prepares for Christopher Visit

TA2102191093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] On 23 and 24 February, the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks will hold two meetings with the U.S. secretary of state. Palestinian leaders hope that this time, the Americans will respect their wish to meet in East Jerusalem; indeed, one of the meetings is apparently scheduled to be held in Orient House, the Palestinian delegation's office building.

East Jerusalem sources stressed that in the atmosphere generated by the deportee dilemma, the delegation heads had been offered various concessions, including one which dealt with holding the meeting with the U.S. secretary of state in East Jerusalem and others dealing with various gestures designed to ease the life of the territories' residents. The purpose of all these was the same: to secure the delegates' support for a continuation of the peace process.

Today the delegates convened in anticipation of Secretary Warren Christopher's arrival and tried to arrive at a unanimous stand on the future of the peace process against the backdrop of Israel's refusal to return all the deportees.

Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, who returned from Amman today, joined the East Jerusalem consultations along with other senior Palestinian delegates from Gaza, Ramallah, and Nabulus. An East Jerusalem source noted that senior delegates, who believe the peace talks should be resumed regardless of the deportee issue, have in recent days walked a tightrope in their talks with heads of territories organizations opposing the process.

Faysal al-Husayni today attended a celebration marking the 24th anniversary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]—which is against the peace process in principle—at the al-Hakawati theater in East Jerusalem. Videorecorded greetings from DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah, which had been sent for the occasion, were screened during the event. Addressing the celebrants, Faysal al-Husayni stressed the need for a united Palestinian front. After his departure, however, some 10 masked men mounted the stage and voiced nationalistic slogans as well as statements against the peace process and against the United States.

'Arafat Message To Be Conveyed

JN2202094093 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Feb 93 p 25

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Amman have said that the Palestinian delegation will convey to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher a five-point letter dealing with the issue of deportees, violations of the Palestinian human rights in the occupied territories, resuming U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, the peace process terms of reference, and the call for direct U.S. involvement in the negotiations.

Palestinian ambassador to Jordan al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that during their meeting in Amman Thursday [18 February] evening, President Yasir 'Arafat gave Faysal al-Husayni a sealed letter addressed to the U.S. official. He added that two sessions of talks will be held with the U.S. official—one at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem to be attended by seven members from each side and another at Orient House, residence of the negotiating team in Jerusalem, to be attended by four members from each side. He said al-Husayni will convey the letter to the U.S. secretary in his capacity as head of the Palestinian delegation.

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokesperson for the negotiating delegation, had earlier conveyed to U.S. State Department officials a list of Palestinian demands. However, the U.S. officials did not answer them pending Christopher's current tour of the region. These demands revolve around the resumption of dialogue with the PLO and the confidence-building measures required from the Israeli Government.

'Arafat Discusses Sudan, U.S. Dialogue, Gulf States

JN2202111693 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Feb 93 p 19

[By 'Isam Qadamani]

[Text] Khartoum—Yasir 'Arafat, Palestinian president, visited Khartoum on 19 February in an attempt to mediate between Egypt and Sudan to solve the problem of Hala'ib, a Sudanese- Egyptian border region with an area of 15,000 square kilometers. Sharp differences occurred recently between the two countries over the ownership of Hala'ib. Intensive meetings will be held between Sudanese and Egyptian officials in Khartoum today in an attempt to solve this problem. The Palestinian president is attempting to bring viewpoints closer regarding this issue.

In statements to the Jordanian press delegation currently visiting Khartoum as part of a tour of some Sudanese provinces, palestinian President 'Arafat said he was optimistic that this problem would be solved soon after these important meetings.

Replying to a question by AL-RA'Y, President 'Arafat described his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn in Amman on 18 February as important, adding that coordination with Jordan continues. 'Arafat said that he discussed with King Husayn the scope and expected outcome of the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region. He asserted that there was agreement on some points which will be posed to the U.S. secretary with regard to regional developments, particularly the peace negotiations and the deportees' issue.

Replying to another question, the Palestinian president said the U.S. secretary of state will meet with the Palestinian negotiating team before he meets with the Israeli delegation on 23 February. This will be followed by a similar meeting later after the U.S. secretary has met with the Israelis. 'Arafat asserted that the Palestinian team will deliver a letter from him to the U.S. secretary of state dealing with the deportees' issue and the negotiations.

The Palestinian president affirmed that it will be difficult to attend the negotiations if the deportees' issue is not resolved, pointing out that the negotiations, which had been scheduled for this month, have been postponed until after 'Id al-Fitr [feast marking the end of Ramadan]. President Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] regretted that instead of an Arab summit being held to discuss the deportees' issue, an Arab foreign ministers meeting was held. He referred to the collusion of the Security Council, which charged the UN secretary general with dispatching two envoys rather than holding a session. The two envoys' missions failed.

Replying to questions posed by the Jordanian journalists, the Palestinian president pointed out that the Security Council resolution on the deportees should be implemented. He said: I will not give Rabin a lifeboat. Regarding the fears that Christopher's tour of the region may influence the Arab parties' stand, the Palestinian president said: No one can influence my plans. I have plans according to which I work.

Concerning relations with the Gulf states, President 'Arafat said that there are attempts to improve these relations, which were not broken on our part. He pointed out that some of these states, such as Qatar and Oman, have responded favorably and that attempts are currently under way to improve relations with the remaining states. He affirmed the need to restore Arab solidarity to face the new world orde, an order which will not have mercy even on itself.

Concerning the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, President 'Arafat said that the U.S. Administration has not fulfilled its promise, pointing out that he is dealing with a superpower and not merely a new administration. 'Arafat affirmed that the demand to reopen the dialogue is an official one and is a right reserved for the PLO; otherwise, the United States will be unqualified to sponsor the peace conference. Within this context, 'Arafat noted that the outcome of negotiations with the Israeli side along the Palestinian track is still nil.

Concerning Jerusalem, President 'Arafat said that no one dares to sign anything that may sell out Jerusalem, asserting that Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Palestine and cannot be relinquished. He said: There is no one among us who has the right to sell out Jerusalem. Replying to another question, he said that the Palestinian decisionmaking is independent and that the Palestinian situation is good as long as it is away from outside interference.

Regarding the 10 Palestinian factions which are opposed to the peace process, the Palestinian president described them as 10 decimals and not 10 factions, as he put it.

Concluding his statements to the Jordanian journalists, which were made late Friday [19 February] night, the Palestinian president said he is optimistic despite the offensive launched on all fronts. This offensive indicates that the Palestinian leadership is proceeding along the right path and is close to target. We are in the last quarter of the hour, he said.

Views Deportations, Peace Talks

JN1902201393 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1818 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has reiterated that the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations cannot be resumed unless the deportee issue is resolved.

In a statement to the French newspaper LE FIGARO published in Paris today, Brother Abu-'Ammar added that the Israeli occupation authorities are currently imprisoning more than 40,000 Palestinians. He noted that 137,000 Palestinians have been imprisoned in Zionist jails at one time or another.

Brother Abu-'Ammar called for holding a Security Council session to discuss the possible imposition of sanctions on the Zionist entity for its failure to implement Resolution 799, which provides for the repatriation of the deportees. He also called for providing the Palestinian people living under occupation with international protection.

With respect to the position of the new U.S. Administration on Middle East peace efforts, Brother Abu-'Ammar said it is too early to judge this. However, he noted that the Zionist lobby has obtained more official posts within the new U.S. Administration than it had in the Bush administration.

PLO, Jihad Officials Comment on Christopher Tour

JN1902200693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Salim Badawi on 18 February; place not given; carried within "The Event" feature—recorded]

[Text] [Badawi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Warren Christopher is visiting the Middle East. The main objective of his visit is to have all the parties agree to resume the peace talks, irrespective of their stands on the deportee issue. Dr. Sha'th, can one sum up the Palestinian stand by your recent statement that Christopher's tour represents the last hope, or at the least a last chance?

[Sha'th] I believe Christopher's visit really plays an important role in the settlement of the deportee problem.

It must assume that role. Otherwise, it will be very difficult to resume the peace process. Christopher realizes that the solution put forth by Rabin is not enough, particularly when he followed it up with his statement that he intends to expel hundreds in the future. This makes the peace process completely lose its credibility. If Christopher wants us to resume the peace process, he has two months at the most to return all the deportees.

[Badawi] Dr. Sha'th, on the Palestinian level, whether inside or outside the occupied territories, what are the losses or gains from participating or not participating in the upcoming round of peace negotiations if the deportee issue is not settled, even though [U.S. Assistant Secretary of State] Djerejian informed Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi that the negotiations will continue with or without the Palestinians?

[Sha'th] I believe there is a great deal of exaggeration in such statements. This is because without the Palestinians there can be no peace process. What is intended by the peace process is to terminate the state of anxiety, instability, and tension which prevails in our region. As long as the Palestinian cause remains as it is, the intifadah will continue. No real peace in the region can take place without peace with the Palestinians. I believe there is a great exaggeration by those who imagine that peace can occur without a peace with the Palestinian people. I also do not believe that we must view the peace process in an isolated manner, separate from the issue of the deportees and their repatriation. In any event, we still have two months. We expect efforts will continue to be exerted until this problem is solved, resulting in the return of the deportees. When this takes place, we will be eager to resume the peace process. We are not against it.

[Badawi] You will refrain from making a decision until the settlement of the deportee issue within two months, or even more?

[Sha'th] Yes, we hope a solution is found within these two months, so that we may be able to continue with the peace process.

[Badawi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the deportee issue has made Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and other Palestinian Islamic movements move onto the track of the peace process, a process which these movements vehemently oppose. [sentence as heard] From this premise, we have asked a representative of one of these movements about his viewpoint and stand on Christopher's tour in particular, and the U.S. initiative in general. Let us listen together to what Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, has to say:

[Al-Shaqaqi] Through our experience with U.S. Administrations over many years, we believe they all have the same face, a face which is hostile to the aspirations of our people and nation, and which completely supports the Zionist enemy. Not one of the U.S. Administrations has budged from this policy, regardless of whether they were Democrats or Republicans. From this premise, we only expect more pressure to be exerted on the Arab countries and on our movements in the region to offer further concessions to the Zionist enemy, particularly with respect to the issue of expulsions, which now constitutes a source of anxiety to the world, the U.S. Administration, and the Zionist entity. The Americans come here to further tame the Arab position in service of the Zionist stand and to seek to terminate the deportee issue in a manner that extricates Rabin from the most serious dilemma he has had to face since the intifadah erupted. We do not expect any good to come from these visits. Unfortunately, we only expect evil.

[Badawi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, how would you react to this, especially insofar as confidence in the American initiative is concerned?

[Sha'th] I concur with the bulk of what Dr. al-Shaqaqi said. True, U.S. Administrations have throughout the history of the Palestinian question unhesitatingly and unswervingly taken Israel's side. The U.S. Administration is going all-out to shield Israel, even from the latter's own monumental blunders. I realize that the United States will make every effort to spare Israel any possible UN Security Council sanctions; it will bring pressure to bear in the interest of a partial solution to the problem. I am fully aware of all that. At the same time, however, I realize that, with the Cold War now behind us, we have a new world that entails new responsibilities for the United States. I realize that the intifadah has created such conditions that it will be impossible for the U.S. Administration to establish peace and stability in our region without addressing the Palestinian people's rights. I also realize that the deportee problem, which has persisted for two months now despite quite a few Israeli steps backward, remains unresolved for want of a complete solution. Previously, the United States would have exercised its veto prerogative on the Security Council, and would have said to us: Israel will do what it pleases, and nothing will happen. But the U.S. reluctance thus far to make a decision and Warren Christopher's tour both foreshadow a change in circumstances. We have to continue to press for our rights within the framework of international legitimacy and our quest for peace and the intifadah.

[Badawi] But do you share al-Shaqaqi's opinion that Christopher's tour proposes to bring about an Arab position congenial to Israeli interests?

[Sha'th] Christopher's trip is aimed at exploring some kind of solution. Why should the U.S. Administration go to such lengths in pursuit of what it wants from the Arab partners if it could secure it without going to so much trouble? In my opinion, none of the Arab partners will give Christopher the opportunity to work out a solution without taking into consideration the rights of the deportees and international legitimacy. Christopher will have to come up with a real solution. If he can get a solution free of charge, why not? But we will not afford him such a way out. We will hold him fully responsible.

[Badawi] With the U.S. secretary of state due in the region very shortly, an argument erupted between 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, the deportees' spokesman, and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador in Amman, over the Palestinian people's representation. Before asking your opinion about this argument and its background, let us recall Fathi al-Shaqaqi's response to the Palestinian ambassador in Jordan—just a reminder here that al-Shaqaqi is secretary general of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine.

[Al-Shaqaqi] I would like to ask the PLO spokesman what kind of peace he is talking about. Does he mean the administrative self-rule proposed by Shamir and subsequently by Rabin? Does he call this peace? The contents of the Zionist plan are not unlike the state of play we initiated five years ago by way of the intifadah and the revolution to topple. We rose up to break loose of this occupation and not to consolidate it through international charters. What is taking place in Washington is not peace. We want to derail this peace because, for all intents and purposes, it represents capitulation to the Zionist enemy's terms. Our jihad and struggle at this stage are aimed at averting this dubious deal with the Zionist enemy and the U.S. Administration. The point made by the deportees' spokesman and our positions as Islamic movements cannot, under any circumstances, be dubious, because they derive from our conviction in the key principles of our people and nation [words indistinct] even in the PLO Charter [words indistinct] those who forsake these conventions, these principles, and these proposals are the ones who strike dubious deals.

[Badawi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, how do you react to those who want to derail the peace process?

[Sha'th] Those who want to derail the peace process want to deny the Palestinian people the opportunities for which they have given their all to advance the cause of their freedom and independence on their own soil. No one can ask the Palestinian people to halt their intifadah or resistance to occupation. It would be unfair for anyone to ask the Palestinian people to call a halt to the political fight they are waging alongside the intifadah in pursuit of their rights. Neither Shamir nor Rabin can force on us their ideas or capitulation. The Zionist-Israeli plan—whether it is Shamir's or Rabin's—is not the only game in town. There is a Palestinian plan that was borne out of the Palestinian National Council's resolutions and is inspired by the Palestinian people's will, both within and outside of the homeland. Sitting at the negotiating table while the intifadah continues represents the high road to peace. If the negotiations produce for us a fair peace we will take it, and if that proves impossible, we will carry on with our struggle and our sacrifices. However [word indistinct] our desire is to attain peace, to attain our rights, and to set up our independent state on the soil of Palestine with liberated Jerusalem as its capital, God willing, after an interim period.

[Badawi] How do the Palestinians regard the positions of the parties willing to go to the reconvened talks even short of a solution to the deportee problem?

[Sha'th] These positions have gone through various stages. To begin with, not one of the Arab parties was willing to link the deportee issue and the peace process on the grounds that the UN Security Council passed a resolution calling for their repatriation, for which the United States voted and which was debated at the White House between two Palestinian delegations—one under Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and the second led by Faysal al-Husayni—and President Bush and Mr. Baker. However, when it became clear that Israel had no intention of submitting to the Security Council resolution or reversing the expulsion crime, the linkage between the peace process and the deportees' repatriation became imperative, not so much in terms of respect for the resolution as in terms of the credibility of the peace process itself. I believe the Arabs will insist on the deportees' return. Those who do not directly link their repatriation and relaunching the peace process are saying: We have two months before the negotiations are due to start again, and in the meantime we must see to the repatriation of the deportees. The linkage stems from a clear position; namely, that all the Arab parties want to go back to the negotiating table but, before that, all of them, above all the Palestinian delegation, want to see the deportees return home.

[Badawi] There have been reports in the press that there is a plan calling for a resolution of the deportee affair according to a specific timetable. It was said to have been proposed by Israel and underwritten by the United Nations, and it supposedly will be sewn up during Christopher's stop in Damascus. What do you think, and why Damascus in particular?

[Sha'th] I am not aware of such a plan. I know that various scenarios were brought to the attention of Christopher before he set out on his tour, all based on the conviction of all the parties that Rabin's proposal falls far short of a solution and that the solution must provide for the deportees' return if the peace process is to be restarted. I have no knowledge of any specific plan to be finalized in Damascus. I know that numerous scenarios are being raised and Christopher himself denies the existence of any, so as not to be blamed for failure if he cannot bring off a real solution to this problem.

[Badawi] But the phased repatriation has been rejected by the deportees themselves.

[Sha'th] It has been rejected to the extent that it does not provide for a full repatriation before the negotiations recommence. Thus far, there is no clear principle to ban future expulsions. We want a solution—whatever its time frame—providing for the return of all the deportees before we return to the negotiating table, and we would like for this solution to constitute such a commitment to legitimacy that would protect us against any further

expulsions as long we are negotiating and until we arrive at a real settlement to the Palestinian question.

[Badawi] Thanks to Dr. Nabil Sha'th.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

Peace Talks Delegation Leader Interviewed

NC2102132893 Paris AFP in English 1250 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Jerusalem, Feb 21 (AFP) - The head of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks dismissed Sunday any compromise over the deportee crisis and insisted he will not attend further negotiations until all the 400 exiles are brought back.

"There can be no compromise," Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi told AFP, dismissing a PLO call for a staggered return of the Palestinian deportees over six months and U.S. attempts to encourage Israel to make a gesture.

"I will not go to any talks until Israel carries out UN Resolution 799," 'Abd-al-Shafi said, adopting a hardline stand before Monday's [22 February] arrival in Israel of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Shafi, a Gaza Strip doctor who is respected by all the Palestinian groups as a man of principle, said he would make his views clear to Christopher when the delegation meets the secretary of state on Tuesday and Wednesday.

"We want the peace process to have real credibility and not just to go on without making any progress," 'Abd-al-Shafi said.

Meanwhile, a leading adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told Sunday's edition of AL-QUDS newspaper that the Arabs were wrong to link the deportee crisis to the peace process.

Bassam Abu-Sharif told the Arabic-language daily: "We should not have linked the issue of the deportees with the continuation of the peace process." In an interview in Tunis he said it only allowed [Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq] Rabin a chance to make political capital from appearing to solve the crisis.

"We should make every effort to prevent Rabin from gaining further benefit from a solution to the deportee crisis," Abu-Sharif said.

Ghassan al-Khatib, a member of the Palestinian delegation, said that when he and other Palestinian leaders meet Christopher they would demand the return of the deportees, an Israeli commitment to improve human rights in the territories and to return occupied land.

"We believe the United States will put pressure on Israel," he told AFP Friday. "The deportees will be brought back, the negotiations will start," he said, without mentioning a time-frame.

For the time being 396 Palestinians are still stranded in no man's land only five of the 101 brought back, and they are all in prison.

Stresses Deportees' Return

JN2102142493 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Manama, 21 Feb (WAKH)—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, has emphasized that the Palestinians will not attend the negotiations, stressing that they will not do so unless all deportees are returned at one time.

In a statement to Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, published today, he expressed his hope in the possibility of convincing U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that the issue of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 799 is basic if the peace process is to continue.

He said: We see no reason for and we reject appeasing Israel to get it out of its own predicament in an attempt to circumvent Resolution 799. He noted that such action will indirecty legitimize the deportation decision and disdain for the Security Council.

The Palestinian official added: Our stand toward Christopher is to acquaint him fully with the seriousness and concern with which we view this issue.

Concerning the Security Council president's statement on the issue of the deportees, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said: In our opinion, the UN Security Council president's statement is unofficial and was not issued by the Security Council as an organization that issues its resolutions in an organized and democratic manner. Therfore, we do not consider the Security Council president's statement an end to the issue of deportees or a cancellation of Resolution 799. This means that the deportees' file remains open and under discussion in the Security Council.

On resuming dialogue between the United States and the PLO, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the urgent issue is that of the Palestinian deportees, which requires concentration and should not be associated with any other problem. The issue of dealing officially with the PLO remains under continuous discussion. However, it is not useful to discuss this issue at this stage. It is important to concentrate now on the current urgent issue of forcing Israel to implement Resolution 799.

'Ashrawi Previews Meeting With Christopher

TA2202055093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] At their meeting with Christopher tomorrow, the Palestinians are expected to present a memorandum asking the U.S. to press Israel on the deportees issue. Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi says she is confident the Syrians will not attend a new round of talks

without the Palestinians, and as long as the deportees remain in Lebanon, the Palestinians will not go to Washington. She was speaking to our correspondent, Dani Gur-Arye:

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi] We cannot go to Washington unless the serious impediments and obstacles are removed and we actually are putting things in the larger context of human rights, in addition to carrying out a very thorough and candid appraisal of all the flaws in the peace process, as well as of the U.S. role, which entails a certain amount of responsibility which the U.S. has taken on in providing letters of assurances and in actually starting the whole process.

[Gur-Arye] What are you asking Christopher to do? I imagine you are asking him to press Israel on certain issues.

['Ashrawi] Well, yes. Primary among the issues at hand is the issue of the deportees, the expulsions, the necessity of implementing 799, in addition to affirming the illegality of deportations per se as a whole and dealing with the whole genre of deportations in the context of human rights abuses and violations in the occupied territories.

[Gur-Arye] Will your memorandum be phrased in a conditional way? Are these conditions for participating in the next round of talks?

['Ashrawi] Well, generally, even throughout the peace process, we have never used the preconditions, but we have explained very clearly that there are very serious obstacles that we cannot overcome unless these obstacles and impediments are removed and dealt with in a way which would ensure the rule of law in the region. So, we are not saying that these are preconditions; we are saying these are obstacles which we cannot surmount unless they are removed.

[Gur-Arye] I want to ask you about Syria. It appears that Syria tends to agree to the next round of peace talks with Israel without conditioning it on a return of all the deportees. Are you critical of that position?

['Ashrawi] Well, Syria, as well as all the other Arab parties involved, know very well that the decisions on participation—on time and place and so on—are collective decisions that are taken after a meeting at a foreign minister level. I think that the final decision of all the countries will be taken in the meetings of the foreign ministers after Christopher's visit.

[Gur-Arye] In other words, you do not believe the situation will arise where the Syrians will go to the peace talks without the Palestinians?

['Ashrawi] I seriously doubt it. I don't think any Arab party will go without the Palestinians. [end recording]

Aide Finds Christopher Remark on Deportees Unfounded

JN2202101393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA)—A diplomatic Palestinian source has denied that the PLO has encouraged proposals by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher concerning the Palestinian deportees and the settlement negotiations. In a statement to the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, Najah 'Abd-al-Rahman, assistant to the Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad, said that Hanan 'Ashrawi affirmed to the U.S. secretary before the beginning of his Middle East tour that the PLO rejects any measure aimed at partial repatriation of the deportees. He added that 'Ashrawi informed Christopher of the PLO's refusal to start any round of negotiations unless the Zionist entity implements UN Security Council Resolution 799. He indicated that the U.S. secretary's statement in Amman to the effect that he has successfully convinced the Palestinians to approve a proposal for scheduling the return of the deportees is unfounded. The Palestinian source affirmed that the PLO's stand is firm and rejects any solution other than the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799.

Radio Discusses Aims of Christopher Visit

LD2102204593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear brothers, the current visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region has limited goals. These goals stem from the U.S. policy toward the Middle East and its issues; a policy which is basically constant, although there is a certain degree of flexibility when each new administration can move in accordance with specific modifications which do not touch the essence of the general principles of U.S. policy.

Opposite the U.S. policy which Christopher has expressed, which requires active U.S. participation in the peace process, as he said yesterday, there are the Arab stances with which he is dealing and holding a dialogue. It is imperative that there should be a common factor between these stances which form a prop and a base to deal with what the U.S. secretary proposes, whereby the U.S. stance comes closer to Arab demands. Should that rapprochement take place, it would be evidence of the success of Arab diplomacy; the opposite would also be correct.

The Americans demand that the Arabs agree to the resumption of the peace talks, and consider their resumption the first strategic issue in the region. Washington sees that all the other crises and problems could be set aside to allow the peace chariot to pass.

U.S. President Clinton linked his presidential term and his new administration to firm commitments in favor of

Israel during the election campaign. As much as those commitments were effective in attracting the American Jewish lobby and pushing Clinton toward the White House, those commitments represent shackles on the freedom of U.S. action in the Middle East, because they put the American Administration in the position of one who does not see events and things other than through Israeli binoculars.

From here, the Arab capability in dealing with the American stances seems to be devoid of any effective cards, other than what could be called the embarrassment card through highlighting the American Administration's method in dealing with double standards. On the one hand, this method is firm and radical when the issue is connected with enemies of the United States, such as Iraq, and on the other hand it looks lenient and liberal when dealing with Israel's refusal to adhere to Resolution 799 which calls for the immediate return of all the deportees, because the implementation of this resolution has become the principal demand for the resumption of the peace talks in which the U.S. secretary of state has affirmed his country's readiness to play a more effective role.

From here, the positive or negative results which can emerge from Christopher's visit are conditional upon the flexibility of the U.S. stance, upon the potentials of the Arab diplomacy and its capabilities for coordination and unity, and its determination for the implementation of the resolutions of the international legitimacy in accordance with one standard which at the same time concentrates objectivity, justice, and credibility.

WAFA Political Editor on Christopher Tour

LD1902043693 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Feb 93

[WAFA political editor commentary: "New Deportees in the Way of Christopher"]

[Text] Warren Christopher, the UN Security Council president, and all those who had hoped that Israel had abandoned the deportation [of Palestinians] forever—and that it needs, therefore, to be helped out of the crisis without having to impose additional sanctions by the Security Council, even if it does not fully comply with the letter of Security Council Resolution 799—are now facing a knock-out blow that the Rabin government dealt to their false hopes. The government added two more deportees to those already deported, threatened to deport 10 others, and arrested four people who were among those allowed to return a few days ago because they had wrongly been deported. They were sent to prison—an alternative that is the same as deportation.

Would the world read into all this? Would Warren Christopher, who is about to start a tour to the region, the Security Council president, and others come to the conclusion that Israel is throwing them into a scandalous and a difficult crisis. As far as the Palestinian side is concerned, Security Council Resolution 799 did not only mean the return of those who were banished and deported. It also—and this is more important—meant an end to deportation and its likelihood as a future course of action.

Israel's reaction to the resolution was, however, to carry out fresh deportations and threaten to carry out more deportations afterwards. Rabin has thus carried out his official threat that any solution to the problem of deportees would not mean that his government would not carry out fresh deportations whenever the situation warranted them.

Warren Christopher's arrival in the region was preceded by an Israeli-American package deal on an issue, in which the Palestinians were the main subject matter, and which is also the indicator of the American seriousness in dealing with the different parties. Nevertheless, the package deal was only between two parties. Neither the Palestinians, who were its subject matter, nor other parties, which had an interest in it, were part of it and were not given any importance.

We expect that Christopher's visit will not lead to any satisfaction or give rise to any hope. The chief of U.S. diplomacy will not be bringing with him just promises or even balanced ones. Rather, he will be bringing with him the opposite: the promise to force the Security Council to accept the statements made by the Security Council president on a solution that had been described as a preemptive bid to force the Security Council to reject the idea of compelling Israel to comply with Resolution 799 by imposing sanctions upon her if she fails to do so. Hence, this is what the U.S. secretary of state is bringing with him—to help Israel, to rescue her, to protect her terrorism, as well as to ("repoose") her challenge to the UN resolutions.

All this does not, however, create a suitable atmosphere that will give fresh hope to the political process that had already made progress, which could have taken the process to encouraging vistas if it had not been for Rabin's intervention by carrying out a mass deportation in order to lead the process into an impasse and had it not been for the new U.S. administration's biased support for Israel. This support is contrary to international public opinion—in agreeing on the package deal that falls far short of the promises and of tranquility and stability in the region.

The era of the cold war has gone, and the era of two superpowers has also gone. Therefore, it should not be possible for the one and only superpower to be unjustly biased. Its bias will not bring about peace. On the contrary, it will lead to instability, collapse, and chaos. Thus, the great banishment of Palestinians to Marj al-Zuhur is an indicator, if not anything else, of unjust U.S. policies. The deportation of more Palestinians is an indication that Israel will continue to follow the same racist policy of banishment that will be followed by more and more banishments in the future.

Hamas Aide Warns PLO Not To Backtrack on Deportees

PM1902172593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Feb 93 p 3

['Ali al-Salih report: "Hamas: Abu-Sharif's Statements 'Trial Balloons'"]

[Text] London—An official of the Palestinian movement Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has cast doubt on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the Middle East.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Muhammad Nazzal, the movement's representative in Jordan, said: "We believe that there is an attempt to arrange a deal with some Arab and Palestinian parties by setting a schedule for the deportees' return, that is gradually, not all at once."

Nazzal said: "The aim is to push the parties, especially the Palestinians, into resuming the peace negotiations, as there is currently talk about the possibility of their resumption in April."

Asked whether this statement is based on certain facts, he pointed out that "What I am saying represents conclusions based on information."

On the statements made by Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, regarding the resumption of the negotiations after the holy month of Ramadan regardless of whether the deportees issue has been resolved, Hamas's representative said:

"We consider Abu-Sharif's statements to be trial balloons launched by the Palestinian leadership to measure the impact of these statements on Palestinian and Arab public opinion."

He said: "We cannot regard these statements as purely personal positions. We have been accustomed to this kind of statement for which there is always a ready denial." He added: "Therefore we deal with them seriously. And we hold the PLO leadership responsible for any backtracking on the Palestinian position, which says that all the deportees be returned immediately to their homes and which received unanimous national backing."

He went on to say: "We still adhere to our fixed position, namely the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799, which cannot be divided and which stipulates the return of all the deportees."

Asked about the statements made by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the deportees in southern Lebanon, who said that they are willing to soften their position if Israel changes its position with regard to all deportation campaigns, Nazzal said that "it is the deportees alone who can decide. But at present we have no option but to adhere to Resolution 799."

PLO Will Not Attend Washington Talks

PM1902143793 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 18 Feb 93 p 1

[Farid al-Khatib and Wafa' 'Amr reports: "Palestinian Message to Christopher Boycotting the Negotiations"]

[Excerpt] Washington, Amman—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will today begin his talks in Cairo in an attempt to revive the peace process which reached a dead end with the last session held in December. Israeli refusal to implement Resolution 799 calling for the repatriation of the deportees has prevented the resumption of the negotiations. Christopher's visit to Cairo was preceded by a visit to the Egyptian capital by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat who will today also visit the Jordanian capital for a meeting with the Jordanian monarch to coordinate Arab positions.

Palestinian sources in Tunis have told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that Fatah's Central Committee, which concluded its meetings the day before yesterday, has decided not to attend the bilateral negotiations in Washington even if the Arab states agreed to do so, so long as the deportees issue remains unresolved. Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian negotiating team who is currently in Amman, has stated that he will carry a message from President 'Arafat to Christopher to be delivered to him when he meets with the delegation in occupied Jerusalem. 'Urayqat expressed the hope that the U.S. secretary of state would bring with him some ideas that would ensure the immediate return of the deportees. The question, he said, is not whether or not the Arabs will go to the negotiations but whether or not we can go. The answer is that it is impossible to go in the current circumstances, so long as Rabin continues to refuse to comply with UN resolutions and to implement Resolution 799.

'Uraqyqat said that the Arabs would not participate in these negotiations "without the Palestinians because they all want a comprehensive peace, not bilateral or separate settlements." [passage omitted]

Most Palestinians Oppose Talks Without Deportees

TA2102192393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] According to a poll conducted by a Palestinian information group, four out of five Palestinians in the territories say their leaders should boycott Middle East peace talks until all 400 deportees are allowed to return.

The Jerusalem Media and Communication Center polled 1,190 people in the territories; 83.7 percent opposed the return to the talks until the deportee issue is settled. Almost 61 percent said the talks should be resumed once a settlement is reached, compared to 35.4 percent who opposed any renewal of talks.

The poll produced other interesting findings. Nearly a third of the Palestinians said peace talks would never benefit Palestinians in any way. Just over 50 percent said the talks would have some positive results, but not meet all the Palestinian needs.

Asked who represents the Palestinians, 58.1 percent said the PLO; 12.4 percent said the Islamic Movement; and 26 percent said the issue would only be settled through direct elections.

Fatah Official Rejects Resettlement of Refugees

NC2102152393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo, has affirmed the Palestinian people's rejection of any attempt to resettle [tawtin] Palestinian refugees outside their homeland, adding that such a thing is unacceptable in form and substance.

In a statement to MENA, al-Qidrah noted that the PLO has rejected and continues to reject any offers for resettling the Palestinian refugees, who number approximately 3 million, outside their territories. He noted that such resettlement is tantamount to aborting the Palestinian revolution and implementing the schemes for liquidating and eliminating the entire Palestinian cause. He added: Accepting resettlement means giving legitimacy to the Israeli entity and implicitly approving of Israel's usurpation of the lands and rights of the Palestinian people.

Some Arab papers have recently conducted opinion polls in Lebanon on resettling the Palestinian refugees, who number approximately half a million, on Lebanese territory.

Islamic Jihad Leader Assails Peace Talks

LD2102223493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Awdah, leader of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine, has stressed that Fatah, the Islamic movement of Palestine, is inspired by the Islamic revolution in Iran and that the holy war against the Zionist regime is one of the demands of the Muslim nation of Palestine.

In an interview with IRNA in Damascus the leader of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine said talks between Arabs and the Zionist regime are aimed at destroying the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

He said that the peace talks are a dangerous American plan and that as an Islamic force and according to the laws of Islam we will not allow the destiny of the Palestinian people to be decided at a humiliating negotiation table.

Algeria

Two 'Terrorists' Shot Dead by Special Army Unit

LD2002204293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Two terrorists armed with machine guns were shot dead on 19 February by members of a special unit of the Popular National Army in Soumaa, in the province of Blida. In the province of Skikda, a group of six terrorists was arrested. They were sending threatening letters to citizens in the name of Islamic fundamentalists.

Special Court Opens Trial of 12 Suspected Terrorists

LD2102114093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0600 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] The Oran special court today began the trial of 12 terrorists accused of the assassination of policemen and plotting against the security of the state. The special court was created by the legislative decree of 30 September 1992. This kind of court—which operates in Algiers, Oran, and Constantine according to territorial jurisdiction—specializes in cases [words indistinct] considers as acts of terrorism or subversion.

Egypt

U.S. Secretary of State Concludes Visit

News Conference With Mubarak

NC1902160093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has announced that U.S. President Bill Clinton invited him to visit the United States and that he has accepted the invitation. He said he will meet with the U.S. President in Washington during the first 10 days of April to hold talks on reinvigorating the peace process.

At a news conference with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher following their meeting today, Mubarak said that they discussed the Palestinian deportees problem and that efforts will be made to solve this problem. He affirmed that the United States will continue to support peace.

Secretary Christopher expressed his pleasure that President Mubarak has accepted the invitation to visit the United States. He pointed out that the meeting between Presidents Mubarak and Clinton will deepen the ties of friendship between them and serve the peace process. He said that the United States will continue efforts to push the peace process ahead.

The news conference started with a brief speech in which President Mubarak said his talks with Warren Christopher were very good. He added that they discussed several issues, primarily the Middle East peace process. Mubarak said he is convinced that the United States is committed to achieving peace and that it pays considerable attention to this issue. He pointed out that his next visit to the United States and his meeting with President Bill Clinton will provide a good opportunity to discuss the peace process.

Mubarak reiterated Egypt's eagerness to maintain the peace process and to start a new round of peace talks as soon as possible. He added that he and the U.S. secretary discussed the issue of the Palestinian deportees, saying: We continue to work to prevent this issue from hampering the peace negotiations.

Warren Christopher made a brief speech, in which he said that he was honored to meet President Mubarak and have the opportunity to hold extensive talks.

He expressed his pleasure in conveying President Clinton's invitation to President Mubarak to visit the United States. He added that Presidents Mubarak and Clinton will hold consultatiions and that their upcoming meeting in Washington will deepen their relations, give an impetus to the Middle East peace process, and support world peace and security.

Christopher noted that Egypt and the United States are both interested in bolstering peace and tackling the issues pertaining to regional stability.

In his speech, the U.S. secretary said President Mubarak underlined the importance of intensifying Egyptian-U.S. efforts to rejuvenate the peace process and encourage the parties concerned to return to the negotiations. The president emphasized that peace negotiations are fruitful and productive.

Christopher added that Egypt and the United States have agreed to work together to bring about the resumption of peace negotiations. He said he conveyed President Clinton's committment to the peace process to President Mubarak. He added that he will convey the same message to the kings and presidents of the Arab states he will visit.

Christopher expressed his confidence that President Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will work with other parties concerned to bolster the peace process.

Concluding his speech, the the U.S. secretary thanked President Mubarak for the hospitality he was accorded and the positive talks they held.

President Mubarak was asked whether he believes that the U.S.-Israeli agreement concerning the Palestinian deportees is viable or whether he prefers a different timetable for resolving this issue. He said the agreement was reached between the United States and Israel regarding the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799. He said that he does not have an alternative timetable. He added that he is working for the full implementation of that resolution, but that it will take time.

Christopher was asked about the U.S. Administration's stand on the status of Jerusalem, particularly because President Clinton said Jerusalem is the capital of Israel during his election campaign and again at a news conference last November. Christopher answered: I think this is a very sensitive issue and I do not want to get into it today. However, the status of the city of Jerusalem will be the subject of final negotiations between the parties.

Christopher said that the United States is looking for ways to bring humanitarian aid to Bosnia-Hercegovina and that he had nothing further to add to this. He also said that the United Nations must resume its humanitarian efforts and that there are signs that this will happen.

In reply to a question on double standards in U.S. foreign policy, which acted to save people in Somalia but not in other parts of the world, the U.S. secretary of state said: I am not sure I understand the question in full. We are aiding Somalia because the human conditions there were severe. We acted to resolve this crisis with material support from Egypt and this allowed us to save thousands of lives through our joint efforts.

The United States cannot do everything everywhere, but we will try to confront humanitarian problems all over the world, he said. We are looking at the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina to see how we can help there. Our aim will be within the limits of our abilities.

The talks between President Mubarak and Christopher lasted around two and a half hours.

Musa Gives Impressions

NC1902192293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1902 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said he believes that the new U.S. Administration under President Bill Clinton will work seriously for the success of the peace process in the Middle East just as the previous administration did.

In statements to journalists at the Presidential Palace at the conclusion of the U.S. secretary of state's talks in Egypt, Musa said that he got this impression following the consultations that he held with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher yesterday and today.

Terms Talks 'Fruitful'

NC2002170893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1649 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has described U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Egypt as positive. He stressed that the talks held with Christopher were important and fruitful and focused on the peace process. In a statement today, Musa expressed his belief that the new U.S. Administration is as determined as the previous one to advance the peace process and reach a peaceful settlement on the basis of the land-for-peace principle. He pointed out that efforts are continuing to settle the Palestinian deportees problem. He noted that the discussions also touched on the Somali problem, the situation in the Mediterranean, the new Commonwealth, the situation in Africa, particularly Angola and the Horn of Africa, and the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Stressing that Egyptian-African contacts are continuing, Musa said that he recently visited Djibouti and Ethiopia. He noted that during his visit to Addis Ababa he held consultations with a large number of African foreign ministers on several African issues on the sidelines of the African ministerial council meeting. He noted that his African tour was not completed because of the Palestinian deportees issue. He said that he will visit Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Kenya in the near future.

Christopher Departs for Amman

NC1902174693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher left Cairo for Amman this evening after a day-long visit, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

While in Cairo, Christopher met with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and discussed a number of current Arab and world issues, in addition to Egyptian-American relations and cooperation.

Musa and U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Robert Pelletreau saw the U.S. official off at the airport.

Christopher is currently on a tour of the region that will take him to Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Israel.

Harm of U.S. 'Bias' Viewed

NC2002122993 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 17 Feb 93 p 2

["Commentary" column by Muhammad Safar 'Id: "Christopher, For Your Information"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is no stranger to the Middle East. Unlike his predecessors, Christopher has no need to begin his work by exploring the region's problems and sounding out the views of its leaders. He comes to the region armed with extensive experience gained through his work for Jimmy Carter's administration.

Secretary Christopher is fully aware of the region's situation and problems. What has changed is that he now comes to the region as a secretary, rather than assistant secretary of state. His tour begins at a time fraught with political tension. He would be mistaken to think that the statement issued by the UN Security Council concerning the Palestinian deportees is sufficient to resolve that

issue and alleviate the tension resulting from the Israeli deportation of the Palestinians.

Secretary Christopher should know that the worst aspect of the U.S. position on the deportees is that it encourages extremism on both the Israeli and Arab sides. Laxity in imposing UN Security Council resolutions is tantamount to rewarding the Israelis for their disregard for international law. This laxity discourages the other side from seeking to restore their rights through negotiations conducted in the framework of legitimacy.

Washington, by adopting a policy that contradicts justice and good sense, for years has fostered the growth of extremism in the Middle East. Despite all that has taken place in the region, from Iran to Morocco, Washington still fuels extremism. Washington denounces extremism in the strongest possible terms, but only if it is perpetrated by Arabs. When Israel engages in extremism, Washington finds excuses for it and even defends and protects it.

U.S. policies toward the shah of Iran produced Khomeyni. Similarly, U.S. policies toward the Palestinian issue gave rise to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The differences between the phenomenons of Khomeyni and Hamas are substantial, we have to admit. Nevertheless, on the Arab scene, the word "moderation" has gained a meaning bordering on capitulation. This is because U.S. policy has frustrated the efforts of "moderate" Arabs and weakened them in front of forces that Washington labels extremist and places on the lists of "terrorist" countries or groups to please Israel.

Secretary Christopher is required to resolve this flagrant contradiction in his country's policy before turning his attention to the intricacies of the Arab-Israeli conflict, a conflict that jeopardizes regional security and stability and world peace. Christopher should understand that the United States is endangering its own interests, as well as the peace process, and that its scandalous bias toward Israel strengthens the hand of the extremists.

In my opinion, this is the first argument the U.S. secretary should hear during his talks in Arab capitals.

Tour Seen as 'Laudable' First Step

NC2002183393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Will Christopher's Tour Mark a New Beginning for Peace?"]

[Text] Contrary to the expectations of numerous international observers and political observers that the new U.S. Administration will be totally preoccupied with domestic political issues in line with President Clinton's election program and thus neglect the Middle East issue, the U.S. Administration, less than one month into its term, has begun a laudable attempt to safeguard the peace process that began under U.S.-Russian sponsorship in Madrid on October 1991. This is illustrated by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's regional tour aiming to get acquainted first-hand with Arab leaders and explore the concerned parties' views before resuming the Middle East peace negotiations.

It was natural for Washington to knock on the Arab region's main gate, Egypt, and to familiarize itself with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's views because of Egypt's pioneering role and its intensive and long-standing efforts to establish a just peace serving the good of the all region's nations, including the Arab Palestinian people. This is why Cairo was the U.S. secretary of state's first stop. He met with Mubarak yesterday, conveying an invitation from President Clinton to visit Washington in early April. Mubarak is the first Arab leader President Clinton wishes to meet.

As for Christopher's discussions with Mubarak yesterday, they were very encouraging. Egypt and the United States agreed to resume the peace negotiations. Additionally, Washington openly reiterated its commitment to give momentum to the peace efforts through direct Arab-Israeli negotiations. Mubarak used the opportunity to explain to the U.S. guest, and indeed to Israel, that attaining peace in the Arab region is a vital goal, worthy of any concession. In our view, this assertion by Mubarak was a direct response to the Israeli prime minister's recent announcement that peace is more important to the Arabs than Israel.

Another important sign of the current U.S. approach and the degree of its earnestness about boosting the peace process was the U.S. secretary of state's remark, made in response to a reporter's question, that the status of Jerusalem will eventually be subject to negotiation among the concerned parties.

Since the latest round of negotiations ended in Washington, Israel has tried to use the time factor in its favor on the grounds that the new U.S. Administration will need more time to determine its foreign policy. Later the Palestinian deportees crisis surfaced as a new obstacle to peace. The Israeli rulers, however, overlooked the fact that the United States has vital interests in the Middle East and that it bears a major responsibility within the new world order. Furthermore, the entire world, including Washington, is certain that the Arabs and Palestinians are sincere about establishing just peace and attaining a comprehensive political settlement to this chronic crisis that guarantees the legitimate rights of all the region's nations.

Hence Israel must meet the Arabs halfway, as Mubarak emphasized during his talks with the U.S. secretary of state when he announced that Egypt will continue to assist all the concerned parties in reviving the peace process. There is nothing new here: Without Egypt's constant participation and the benefit of its former negotiating experience, the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations would have collapsed long ago, especially in light of the Israeli negotiators' numerous ploys designed to force

the Arabs to withdraw from the talks so that they could later blame them for the failure of the peace process.

Despite the positive signs, we will not be overly optimistic. The Arabs—all of them—as Christopher was given to understand during his talks with Mubarak, have offered all possible concessions. The ball is now in the Israeli court and Washington must reestablish its credibility as a basic party to the peace operation and persuade Israel's rulers to resume the negotiations for the good of its own people and the other regional nations.

While waiting for the results of the U.S. secretary of state's tour, the question remains: Will Christopher's tour mark a new beginning for peace?

Mubarak Comments on Talks with Christopher, Sudan

NC2002154593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1423 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Aswan, 20 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has asserted that Egypt cherishes its relations with the Sudanese people and will not heed any offenses or distortion of the facts.

The president, who was speaking during a public rally in Aswan today, declared that the Sudanese people are able to discover the truth.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, who reported on the rally, said Mubarak pointed out that the Sudanese people know that Egypt is concerned about their welfare and are able to expose both those who are sowing divisions and the parties influencing them.

The president said: "We will not abandon the two nations' common values."

Answering a question about the peace process and the Palestinian deportees, the president noted that the concerned parties have met and negotiated with each other to resolve a decades-long dispute. Noting that the negotiations have stumbled on the deportees issue, he declared that more efforts will be made to resolve this problem. He said Egypt is consulting with Israel, the United States, and the PLO over the matter and that it topped the list of subjects he discussed with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during their meeting in Cairo yesterday.

Mubarak stated that Egypt deals with issues in a mature, civilized, and knowledgeable way.

Regarding international relations and the ties between Egypt and the new U.S. Administration, Mubarak affirmed the mutual respect between Egypt and the world community, which understands our views and concerns. He said that the relationship with the United States is based on mutual respect and U.S. appreciation of Egypt's influential regional role.

The president explained the results of the U.S. secretary of state's visit to Cairo, saying Christopher conveyed to him an invitation from U.S. President Bill Clinton to visit Washington. Mubarak added that the visit is expected to take place in April.

Mubarak also commented on cooperation between Egypt and the European countries and the need to deal with the new reality represented by a united Europe and the changes that this entails. He said Egypt is capable of dealing with the new economic realities.

Concerning Egypt's relations with Iraq, Mubarak told the rally: Egypt offered repeated advice to the Iraqi regime after its invasion of Kuwait. Our advice went unheeded, although we spoke sincerely, based on our sound vision and proper assessment of the situation and its implications.

He declared that Egypt opposed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait based on its adherence to Arab values and principles.

He asserted that not even a hint of vindictiveness governs Egypt's pan-Arab relations, that it appreciates the realities of pan-Arab security, rejects the policy of forming opposed alliances, and respects inter-Arab economic cooperation agreements and the Joint Arab Defense Pact. He pointed out that Egypt repeatedly rejected attempts to involve it in a policy of forming rival Arab axes during the days of the Arab Cooperation Council [former grouping linking Egypt with Iraq, Jordan, and Yemen).

Mubarak said: Concern for the citizens' good makes it necessary for us to make careful decisions that take into account the interests of the homeland and the people.

Al-Sharif said that during the popular rally, which lasted for two hours, Mubarak spoke about a number of issues related to national action. In this regard, he underlined the need to keep up the economic reform march in Egypt, adding that if the economic reform policies are maintained until 1995, economic conditions will improve and socioeconomic stability will be achieved. Mubarak mentioned the ongoing talks between Egypt and the IMF to reach a second agreement, which would result in forgiving 15 percent of Egypt's outstanding debts. He pointed out that improving the economic situation will provide opportunities to upgrade the people's living standards by boosting incomes, stabilizing prices, and attaining satisfactory standards of socioeconomic stability.

Elaborating on the economic situation in Egypt, Mubarak said that there was no alternative in tackling economic issues but to follow rational and enlightened measures to reform the Egyptian economy. He noted the importance of the principle of putting all the facts of the problem before the people so that they will be prepared to endure the burdens imposed by the reform policy. Mubarak said that the reform policy makes room for

cooperation with the international economic institutions, either the World Bank or the IMF, so that Egypt can keep up the development process in all fields. Referring to what has been accomplished in the infrastructure, Mubarak noted that Egypt had no choice but to obtain loans to finance the first and second economic development plans.

Turning to stability in Egypt, Mubarak said that stability means achieving comprehensive development in all sectors related to upgrading the people's living standards. He noted that as a result of the stability Egypt enjoys, the hotel business has achieved such high rates of performance that Egypt's share of tourist activity in the region has reached approximately 39 percent. However, he added, some irresponsible acts committed against tourism have caused some negative effects. Mubarak asked: Has the success attained in the tourism business and the income generated for all of society angered the ill-wishers so much as to lead them to carry out acts harmful to the national economy and the future of our society? He noted that attacking tourists is tantamount to attacking all people, factions, and persons who stand to benefit from tourism, including investors and hotel owners. Attacking tourists also means attacking capital, business in the market, the small industries that serve tourists, workshops and other areas of business related to the tourism industry, and the people working in this field.

Mubarak noted how a decline in the flow of tourists could affect the national carrier. He said that for the first time in the history of Egypt Air, the company depends on its own resources to finance its purchases, which now amount to 32 new aircraft of various types, thus enabling it to compete with international airlines and serve tourism in Egypt along with other international carriers. Mubarak added: Egypt Air is now suffering as a result of the decline in tourism, because the whole process is interrelated. He pointed out that tourism has become an important industry for Egypt and its income benefits all of society. He added that Egypt is in urgent need of every possible source of income to cope with the needs of the society and the burgeoning population increase, which amounts to 15 million more people in the past 10 years. He added: If such high rates of population growth continue we will reach a difficult point that we cannot cope with. We have to realize as a people and a nation that Egypt is a country with history and culture and it is our responsibility to maintain this culture through healthy generations capable of assuming their responsibility. He stressed that family planning is the responsibility of society so that each family's expenses are in proportion to its income and an acceptable standard of living may be maintained.

Suspects in Killing of American, Swedish Tourists Arrested

NC2002164893 Cairo MENA in English 1506 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA)—Those accused of killing a Swedish woman tourist on September 10 turned out to belong to the same ring which killed another American tourist woman on February 7, the Police of Tourism and Antiquities revealed today. The arrested elements in this connection confessed to the killing and said that they pretended to give women tourists a hand with affairs in Cairo, director of the Police of Tourism and Antiquities Major General Muhammad Mut'ib said.

After getting to know them they used to kill them, strip them of all identity cards, and take them out of Cairo to dump them in remote areas, Muhammad Mut'ib, who is assistant interior minister said. The body of the Swedish tourist was found near the Red Sea, while that of the American tourist was found on the Cairo-Suez highway, he said.

Musa Previews Hala'ib Talks, Denies Rumors of 'Aziz Visit

NC2102154493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the Egyptian-Sudanese joint committee meeting tomorrow in Khartoum is one between brothers. He added that the two sides share an existing desire to mend the rift and reach results that satisfy the wishes of the two peoples and consolidate brotherhood between them. He said that the bases for resolving the Hala'ib problem will be left up to the committee members to work out.

On the question of the Palestinian deportees, Musa said that Egypt has a number of ideas for resolving this problem and is holding contacts to reach a solution for it that could serve the peace process.

Asked if Egypt has made specific proposals to resolve the deportees issue to the U.S. secretary of state, Musa said that during the discussion held with the U.S. secretary of state we discussed more than one subject dealing with peace and resolving the deportees problem. He noted that the continuation of the problem of the deportees has a negative impact on the prospects for a speedy resumption of the peace talks. He added that efforts must be exerted to save the peace process and stressed that Egypt is working hard to find a solution for the deportees.

The foreign minister denied reports that Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister in the Iraqi regime, may visit Egypt.

'Arafat To Deliver Mubarak Message to Saddam Husayn

NC2002152693 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1441 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will visit Baghdad this week within the framework of his good offices to improve relations between Iraq and Egypt on the one hand and between Iraq and the Gulf countries on the other. During his visit, 'Arafat will convey a message from President Mubarak to Saddam Husayn in reply to

the message he recently conveyed to Mubarak. The talks between 'Arafat and Saddam Husayn will also touch on an agreement on a visit that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz will pay to Cairo, a visit that has been postponed several times because of the Egyptian Government's refusal to receive him.

Diplomat Appointed To Run Embassy Affairs in Baghdad

NC2102110593 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1029 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY has learned from well-informed Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo that Egypt has approved the nomination of a diplomat with the rank of counselor to manage the affairs of the Egyptian Embassy in Baghdad.

Iraqi Cartoonist Seeking Asylum Deported to U.S.

NC2102151793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1439 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)—Iraqi cartoonist Hasan Hafiz al- Agha was deported to the United States today after the Egyptian authorities rejected his request for political asylum.

Sources at Cairo airport said the request was turned down because the reasons given by the Iraqi artist were deemed insufficient.

The Iraqi cartoonist carries a political asylum document from the Red Cross. He arrived in Cairo on board a German flight from Frankfurt yesterday.

Two Egyptian Nationals Reportedly Executed in Iraq

NC2102152493 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1428 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—The Egyptian weekly magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF publishes the following report in its edition tomorrow:

The Iraqi authorities have executed two Egyptian citizens on charges of sheltering opponents of Saddam Husayn in the city of al- Qadisiyah.

The families of Sabir 'Abd-al-Rahman Sulayman and Tal'at 'Ali Mahmud, who reside in al-Badari in Asyut Governorate, have been informed of their execution.

'Thousands' Protest Antifundamentalist Law

NC1902164793 Paris AFP in English 1456 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, Feb 19 (AFP)—Thousands of protestors rallied here Friday [19 February] to discuss ways of fighting a new law aimed at smashing the Islamic hold on professional associations, correspondents reported. The Egyptian authorities stepped up security in Cairo to prevent any street demonstrations as mass meetings got under way at the headquarters of the doctors, lawyers and engineers associations which are dominated by fundamentalists.

Some 5,000 people gathered after weekly Friday prayers at the engineers' association led by Construction Minister Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, shouting slogans accusing the government of "killing democracy." "Fathi Surur (the parliamentary president) and the government do not want progress for our country," they shouted and called for action to confront the new law.

The secretary general of the engineers' association, Muhammad Bishr, told AFP that the Egyptian security forces had prevented thousands of union members from converging on the capital from other parts of the country. "They forced several buses carrying engineers from entering Cairo," Bishr charged. He said the fight would continue against the law, which was passed Tuesday. "The government pretends that the new law will guarantee larger democratic participation in union activity while in fact this law reduces freedoms," he said.

President Husni Mubarak's government pushed through the law in parliament on Tuesday to prevent fundamentalists from winning control of professional associations and unions. It sets a minimum turnout of 50 percent in the first round of leadership elections and 33 percent in the second round, with the aim of limiting the chances of fundamentalists winning control by benefitting from low turnouts. If turnout falls short of the new limits, the new law calls for the appointment of magistrates to manage the unions for an interim six- month period, at the end of which a new vote must be held.

The leftists and liberal opposition agree that the new law undermines democracy and freedom and have charged that parliament, which is dominated by MPs from Mubarak's National Democratic Party, did not consult them.

Libya

Statement on Chemical Weapons Charges

LD2002155393 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] The General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has issued the following statement:

The media have carried the statements of the official U.S. State Department spokesman regarding the allegations made by some Western intelligence sources that the Great Jamahiriyah is building installations whose purpose is claimed to be connected with chemical weapons.

Declaring its amazement and astonishment at these allegations, the General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International

Cooperation expresses its profound shock. It was not expecting this from the new Democratic U.S. Administration, given the strength of the Democrats' history, their well-known positions on the side of minorities and peoples, and their stand for freedom and the cause of freedom.

In addition, we were deeply shocked because we did not expect that the new Democratic administration would embroil itself in an impasse which was deliberately created by the former Republican administration for electoral purposes, among other reasons. We did not want to see the Democrats put themselves in this situation, nor did we want to hear them say what they said in response to an allegation and a mere crazy idea spread by some intelligence quarters to further their long-standing objectives and goals.

Out of the Great Jamahiriyah's anxiety to remove any ambiguity regarding this allegation and silence any tendentious words, and as a bonus from us to the Democrats and a demonstration of our serious desire to preserve their friendship, we would like to stress the following:

1. The Great Jamahiriyah is confident and certain of its deep belief in peace and it does not draw its self-confidence from other people's stands toward it. Therefore, it is not obliged to call upon others as witnesses for every project it carries out in its own country. Nor is it obliged to respond to all the tendentious, related, and continuing campaigns, from the Gulf of Sirte to the Lockerbie affair, the al-Rabitah issue, and, finally, now—and we hope that it will be the last—al-Tarhunah.

We consider these campaigns and statements as a kind of psychological terrorism and a veto [preceding word in English] on the future of the peoples.

2. In the framework of its development projects, the Great Jamahiriyah is carrying out a huge and unique water project, namely, the Great Manmade River. This requires, at every stage, the training of people, including those working in the national enterprises. These enterprises will, in the future, rely on their own efforts to undertake the execution of all the works related to the project, including the digging of tunnels in the mountain chains standing in the route of this project, whether in the second stage of the project which is being implemented or in the remaining four stages.

This work is part of the program of execution and training which is being carried out openly, in front of everyone. This development work, which is both huge and costly, confirms the Jamahiriyah's concern for its freedom and independence.

3. The Great Jamahiriyah is confident and it invites any neutral international quarter and the various world media, including the press, radio stations, and news agencies, to visit this site in order to ascertain whether what we are saying is true or not.

We are extending this invitation as a bonus to the Democrats to express our concern for the relations of friendship between them and us and to tell them that it is wrong to continue to follow the methods of the previous administration or fall into the traps the latter, set before leaving office, in order to embroil the Democrats in them.

4. The peoples of the world are now certain, through actual practice, that international balances have been impaired since international legitimacy, with its double standards, has become like a sword hanging over people's heads. While it is waging campaigns of psychological terrorism against peoples, international legitimacy is ignoring the Israelis' possession of atomic bombs, their programs to manufacture them, and their possession and manufacture of chemical and biological weapons. What is more, the double standards of international legitimacy are now justifying the Israelis' refusal to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799 calling for the return of the Palestinian deportees uprooted from their land without any reason.

The world is no longer duped by these shameful deceptions since it no longer accepts what has been falsely described as international legitimacy.

Al-Qadhdhafi Fears Conspiracy by 'Conservative Elements'

LD2102233193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Excerpt] The Libyan leader expects conservative elements to stage a conspiracy to overthrow the Jamahiri system. Libyan television today mentioned that Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi confirmed his fears of a conspiracy against the Jamahiri system staged by Libyan conservative elements.

According to the Libyan leader, Libyan cadres that have influence and power intend to hinder the new organization put forward last October for limiting bureaucracy and corruption. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Warns of 'Conspiracy Against the Masses'

LD2102145693 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The brother leader of the revolution has stressed that the masses must be left free to assume their authority without any pressure, and that there is no fear of the dictatorship of the masses because they were the rightful owners of everything.

In an intervention by telephone in a seminar on communes that was shown on television last night, the brother leader of the revolution said that there must be sincere efforts, such as those by the seminar participants and by the educated, to help the masses to exercise their authority and to focus on the path of the districts and communes that the masses are currently following.

Doubts must not be cast on the structure itself and there should not be prejudgments on whether it will succeed or not.

The brother leader of the revolution expressed his appreciation for efforts to help the masses assume their authority in communes. However, he questioned whether there is an attempt to put pressure on the masses to reduce the number of districts and to return to the situations they have left behind after their failure was proven, such as the complex higher administrative units. [passage omitted]

The leader expressed his fear that seminars such as this one may be part of the pressure directed at democracy. The leader said that there are many people in offices, municipalities, and sub- municipalities, and others who have gained influence and power; and that people had started to line up in front of the houses and offices of these people to lobby them about their needs and affairs. The rights of the citizen are being offered to him disgracefully like charity. He said that that class is putting pressure on the masses to make them merge in large departments in order to reinstate centralized administration.

Addressing the participants in the seminar he said: While appreciating your efforts, I am afraid that sometimes you might have been thrust into another operation about which you have no knowledge—namely, putting pressure on the masses so that districts will be merged and grow to the size of a town. He added: Some time you might unwittingly be involved in a conspiracy against the masses. The leader pointed out that some of the reports that have been disseminated have exploited his name by connecting the merger of communes with the leader's instructions. He stressed that he is against the merger of communes, and criticized the deception of the masses by putting pressure on them through the use of his name. The leader pointed out that in that context he has seen specific figures declared in some departments. He described this as a premeditated oppressive action, in the framework of which communes would be kneaded together until that figure was reached. [passage omitted]

He explained that any group of people, no matter how few they may be, can meet and set up a congress even if they only number 50 persons.

The brother leader of the revolution said that the Libyan law issued by the people is applicable throughout Libyan territory. People are equal in accordance with the law's executive provisions. Any breach of its provisions is a breach of the law itself, a destruction of the law and a destruction of the popular authority. The duty of the communes is to carry out the laws issued in a collective form at the level of the Great Jamahiriyah. No one citizen can interpret the law differently in one street from the interpretation which is followed in the other street.

The leader explained that many Arabs, especially those who are suffering from an al-khawajah complex [inferiority complex in relation to the West], see the administrative system in Switzerland as an ideal system and believe that it is the best system in Europe and the world. He said that the Swiss system is closest to the system which exists in the Great Jamahiriyah. However, the Libyan system is more advanced than the Swiss one. He noted that this system is considered ideal because the Swiss people manage themselves through the communes. After the communes come the cantons and then the federal authority, he said.

The leader explained that listening to the opinion of every commune concerning unity with, for example, Egypt, or Tunisia, or Sudan, or Chad is something that is required and desired. There is a representative for unity there—that is, a member of the Popular Committee on Unity, who is elected by the commune. He also referred to the question of information and the radio. He made it clear that when the communes or districts hold their congresses on information they can draw up an information policy and stipulate how the information is going to be disseminated so that the radio implements only what the people want. He noted that some protests have been voiced against the radio because it is proceeding in one direction and the masses in another direction. This will not happen when every district has a popular committee secretary for information, he stated. The views of all the masses of the district are to to be taken into account so that they can be heard along with the views of the other congresses concerning information policy.

The leader explained that each district is free to act on matters which concern it alone, and on anything that does not contravene the law which had been adopted by the popular congresses at the level of the Great Jamahiriyah. The leader repeated at the conclusion of his intervention his fear that there might be a conspiracy against the upsurge of the masses, the popular authority, and the participation of the Libyan citizen in deciding his destiny in every respect.

Anniversary of 'Zionists' Downing of Airliner Noted

LD2102184093 Tripoli JANA in English 1433 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nowar [February] 21, Jamahiriyah News Agency—Today is the anniversary of the shooting down of the Libyan Arab civilian airliner when the Zionist warplanes led a missile attack on it.

The delibrate Zionist attack claimed the lives of 108 passengers of the Libyan Arab Airlines' aircraft which was on a scheduled flight from the city [words indistinct] to Cairo [words indistinct]. The victims of the attack belong to 11 countries including Libya, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Sudan, France, Germany, America and Poland.

Only five passengers escaped death but they are totally handicapped.

The shooting down of the Libyan Arab civilian airliner, which was carrying women, elderly people and children by the Zionist gangs constituted a serious (?precedent) in the history of the international civil aviation as the Zionist criminals breached all customs, accords and the U.N Security Council resolutions. Furthermore, the Zionists violated all international accords regulating the civil aviation traffic in the world and the fourth Geneva protocol for 1909.

While we commemorate this painful anniversary, we would like to remind the world of this ugly crime which is not the only one on the Zionists' overcrowded record of crimes starting from the biggest crime of usurping Palestine to the deportation of more than 400 Palestinians from their homeland and families who remain hitherto threatened by gradual death as a result of cold weather and food shortages to the massacre of Dir Yassin and the massacrees of Sabra and Shatila in addition to other ugly crimes which mankind and history has never witnessed in their degree of barbarity.

The official (?statement) issued after the shooting down of the Libyan Arab airliner by the Zionists described the attack as the ugliest and dirtiest crime ever seen by the civilised world. The act showed the shamelessness of the Zionist gangs and their contempt to the international community, [words indistinct] and conventions. The attack attracted strong dismay and condemnation throughout the world.

Daily on Danger of Arab-Israeli Conflict Over Water

LD1902203793 Tripoli JANA in English 1814 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Tripoli, Nawwar [February] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—AL-JAMAHIRIYAH newspaper this morning published an editorial entitled the alarm bells of danger ring saying that total Arab national security can not be established without the consolidation of Arab water security which will remain the fundamental tenant of this security without which the security will collapse and fulfill one of the Zionists purposes who have already began their battle for water against the Arabs in a bid to remove this fundamental tenant of national security.

The paper recalled that a former Zionist prime minister had declared that thirsty Israel will not stand idly by while Allitani River waters pour into the sea.

The paper pointed out that the battle now between Arabs and Zionists is a battle of water and that the main concern of Zionist is to take control over the Jordan River, Al Yarmok River and Al Assi River and that all battles with the Zionists are aimed at this aspect and that probably the wars for water will be more dangerous than those over oil in the Middle East.

The paper said that the reason for this is water shortages and the threat of water exertion in the countries of the area.

The paper went on to say that every country in the world now will not compromise one drop of its [word indistinct] because that would mean thirst and suicide and a bleak future and the constant threat of death.

The paper called on the Arabs to enter into an Arab union which will enable them to deter any attempt of stealing their water and that can only enjoy and benefit to the maximum of their rain waters and rivers through unity of water management and other systems preserving ever [word indistinct] of water.

The paper stressed that the Great Man Made River provided the example of Arab capability to overcome natural obstacles and problems.

Kuwait

Secretary of State Christopher Arrives on Official Visit

LD2202102193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0956 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 22 Feb, (KUNA)—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived here this afternoon on an official visit to Kuwait as part of his tour of the region.

Christopher was welcomed on arrival by the Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister; Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, Foreign Ministry undersecretary; and U.S. Ambassador Edward Gnehm. [passage omitted]

In a welcoming speech, Shaykh al-Ahmad al-Sabah lauded the excellent relations that link the two friendly countries. He praised the stance of the United States and President Clinton in support of Kuwait's just issues—"a stance that truly reflects the extent of the United States' awareness of its international role and responsibilities and its respect for the principles of justice and right."

Shaykh al-Sabah said: "The great role that the United States has played and still plays must not slip our minds. We must remember its endeavor, along with all the peace-loving states in the world, to establish the foundations of security and stability in the world. There is no doubt that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the Middle East area represents a true manifestation of the constructive role of the United States as a great power that believes in its obligations toward the defense of world peace and security."

He added: "This visit to our area takes place while it is still suffering from the consequences of tyrannical Iraqi aggression and as a result of the Iraqi regime's continued procrastinations concerning the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on its aggression against the State of Kuwait—especially with regard to the question of Kuwaiti prisoners of war, hostages, and others and to the regime's repeated violations of the sanctity of the international borders of Kuwait and its continuation of false claims concerning Kuwait and its sovereignty on its own territory."

He noted that the visit of the U.S. secretary of state is "a good opportunity for consultation on current conditions in the Gulf area, proceeding from the common belief that security in this area is an integral part of world security and stability—as called for by UN Security Council resolutions—and that it constitutes a vital and important element in the creation of world peace."

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad expressed the hope that he will hold fruitful talks with the U.S. secretary of state "aimed at serving the interest of our two friendly countries and at strengthening the international position and its cohesion against the Iraqi regime—the continuing existence of which represents a departure from the simplest bases of international laws and codes of practice and a direct threat to world peace and security."

Amir Receives Christopher

LD2202104693 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Excerpt] His highess the amir of Kuwait received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at 1245, on the occasion of his visit to the country.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Council of Ministers Notes Importance

LD2102184493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 21 February (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers today welcomed the U.S. secretary of state's visit tomorrow to Kuwait, pointing to the importance of the visit in embodying the U.S. desire to guarantee the Iraqi regime's commitment to the complete implementation of the Security Council's resolutions for the sake of consolidating the stability of the region.

This emerged in the council's ordinary session under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister. [passage omitted]

Christopher Lauds Results, Departs

LD2202134793 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Feb, KUNA—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher today left the country after a short visit lasting a few hours during which he met with with his highness the amir of the country within the framework of his current tour of a number of Middle Eastern countries.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister. First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, who was at the head of those bidding farewell to the American secretary of state, said that, during his meeting with the emir of the country, Christopher affirmed the U.S. commitment to Kuwait's security and stability, and praised the results of his visit to the country.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad added that the American secretary of state has described his meeting with His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as being "a meeting surrounded by an atmosphere of understanding."

Shaykh Sabah pointed out that Christopher has delivered a written message to his highness the amir from U.S. President Bill Clinton.

In a reply to a question from KUNA about whether the issue of the future of Iraq has been discussed during the meeting between Christopher and the amir, Shaykh Sabah stressed Kuwait's stance by saying "we are not against Iraq, but with the Iraqi people against the head of its regime which is fighting this people." [passage omitted]

Editorial Welcomes Secretary's Visit, Views U.S. Ties

LD2202093393 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0812 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Feb (KUNA)—The newspaper AL-ANBA welcomed the coming visit of the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Kuwait. The paper said that the visit comes to manifest the depth of Kuwaiti-American relations that have been transformed from an alliance into a firm friendship.

The paper explained in its editorial that this visit confirms what the United States had declared, namely to stand up firmly to the Iraqi regime and to continue to apply pressure on it until it complies with all the UN Security Council resolutions—foremost of which is the release of Kuwaiti prisoners of war and hostages.

Christopher will also discuss the situation in the Gulf and the security there, which has become a major point in the foreign policy of the U.S. Administration during the era of President Clinton.

The paper expressed thanks to the United States on behalf of the grateful Kuwaiti people for leading the honorable men of the world in the liberation of Kuwait from the disgraceful Iraqi occupation.

Qatar

Amir Receives Message From Yasir 'Arafat

JN2002133193 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1105 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Doha, 20 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani received a written message from Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat dealing with developments in the Palestinian issue and the Middle East process.

Doha radio said that Palestinian ambassador to Qatar Yasin al-Sharif, delivered the message during his meeting with Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani in Doha today.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Secretary of State Christopher

LD2102223593 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2145 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 21 Feb (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God protect him, today received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the delegation accompanying him, at the royal court in Al-Yamama Palace. [passage omitted] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Riyadh earlier this evening. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Comments

LD2202013893 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0015 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Feb (SPA)—His Excellency U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has praised the close relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and his country, and considered his current visit to the Kingdom as a confirmation of these close relations.

In statements to the media he made on his arrival in Riyadh today, he said that he was looking forward to excellent talks and to his visit being an occasion to further strengthen ties between the Kingdom and the United States. On the other hand, Mr. Christopher stressed that His Excellency President Bill Clinton was committed to the security of the Gulf, and pointed out in this context that the United States shared the determination of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to ensure that the Baghdad regime complies with all the UN Security Council resolutions, in addition to the complementary resolutions to guarantee compliance with these resolutions [sentence as received].

He said: We harbor appreciation for the positions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's supporting these resolutions and its insistence that they be complied with. Mr. Christopher ruled out that his country had positions against the Iraqi people, and said: We have nothing against the Iraqi people, who are suffering from the carrying out of UN resolutions against the regime of Saddam Husayn, but we cannot but see all the Security Council resolutions implemented.

On the other hand, he said that President Bill Clinton was committed to the United States becoming a full partner in the peace negotiations in the Middle East. He said: We want the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to help us ensure an early resumption of the negotiations, and take further steps for a long peace. He added: We appreciate the continuous participation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in most of the peace process and the working groups, and this participation is no less important than what takes place at the bilateral levels.

Mr. Christopher stressed the necessity of reviving the peace talks and resuming them if the parties were determined to follow the path of peace.

For his part, the foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, welcomed the visit by his excellency the U.S. secretary of state to the Kingdom, which he said "was not only to renew acquaintance, but also to continue the fruitful cooperation between our two countries in many areas." His highness expressed his hope that His Excellency Mr. Christopher would himself notice the strong relations which tie the two peoples. His highness the foreign minister said in a similar statement: "We are looking forward to his discussions this evening with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and look forward to fruitful discussions."

His highness expressed his appreciation for his excellency the U.S. secretary of state for choosing this area as the first place for his foreign tours and listening to its officials. He said "that reflects the commitment of the United States in its quest for peace in the region."

Christopher Departs

LD2202095193 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0929 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 22 Feb, (SPA)—The U.S. secretary of state, Warren Christopher, left Riyadh this morning following his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Secretary Christopher Urged To Visit Lebanon

LD2102105893 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0310 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 21 Feb (SPA)—Under the headline "The Importance of Lebanon in Christopher's Tour" the AL-MADINAH newspaper says that Lebanese diplomacy has done well in insisting that Lebanon should be included in U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the area. The secretary of state should accept this principle despite all the preliminary reservations which were linked to security aspects and a fear that the visit might be canceled suddenly. This is what some news agencies were saying.

The paper said that omitting Lebanon from Christopher's tour removes political weight from UN Security Council Resolution 425, which is just as important as Resolutions 242 and 338. [passage omitted] Israel must have been very happy to see that Lebanon was not included in the tour. Israel is still talking about a security belt in Lebanon, regarding this as a geographical extension to which it can dispatch more deportees.

The paper concludes by saying: "We believe that the visit should take place despite all the warnings and dangers which some Western media have been talking about and which we do not actually believe exist. We say that not only do facts contradict these claims, but James Baker visited Lebanon and met President al-Hirawi in Zahlah in the al-Biqa' valley, and more than one Western official or minister has visited Lebanon. Therefore what is new now?"

Papers View Visit as Potential 'Political Victory'

LD2102113493 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0657 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 21 Feb (SPA)—The newspapers AL-NADWAH and AL-JAZIRAH commented on the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the area. AL-NADWAH said that the U.S. President was very keen to send his secretary of state very early to the Middle East to study and to listen. Reports said that Christopher advised Rabin to speed up the repatriation of the deportees, and this advice was given despite the recent American-Israeli understanding to resolve the issue by repatriating a quarter of the number. The advice was due to the opinion that the secretary of state formed after his meeting with the Arab sides, who warned him not to be satisfied with the implementation of only a quarter of UN Resolution 799 on the basis that legitimacy is the foundation of peace. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, the newspaper AL-JAZIRAH said: It is certain the U.S. secretary of state is eager to score a political victory to crown his first foreign tour in his new position as a secretary of state. He realizes the importance of the area to his country and to the world.

The paper concludes by saying that the interests of Washington and the entire world demand the closing of the dossier of the conflict in the Middle East. The Arab world should be made to feel that this is important economically and politically. International legitimacy should be strengthened with anything that will entrench the concept of the "new world order."

United Arab Emirates

'Indirect Contacts' With Iran To Resolve Islands Issue

NC2102135393 Paris AFP in English 1300 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, Feb 21 (AFP) - The United Arab Emirates and Iran have had indirect contacts to find a peaceful settlement to their territorial dispute over three islands in the Gulf, a senior UAE official said in a report published Sunday [21 February].

Cited by the Saudi daily AL-RIYADH, the UAE's chief of staff, Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Zayid Al Nahayyan, said the contacts over the strategic islands of Abu Musa, [and the] Greater and Lesser Tunbs were also aimed at safeguarding Gulf security. But he did not identify the mediating party, saying only that it was "a friendly country." [passage omitted]

Yemen

Al-Bid, 'Arafat Discuss Deportees, Peace Process

JN2102083293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, received in his office last night brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, who is currently visiting our country. During the meeting, discussions dealt with the developments in the Palestinian arena, the future of the Middle East peace process, and issues of joint interest.

The brother vice chairman of the Presidential Council affirmed our country's firm support for the Palestinian people's struggle, steadfastness in the face of the occupation, and confrontation of the Zionist occupation authorities' acts of violence and savage terrorism. He stressed the need to find a solution to the Palestinian deportees' issue and to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799 providing for the return of the deportees to their homes. He also stressed the importance of putting a final end to the deportation and displacement of Palestinians from their homeland, Palestine, and of acknowledging their legitimate rights, including the establishment of their independent state on the soil of Palestine.

For his part, Palestinian president brother Yasir 'Arafat reiterated appreciation for our country's support for the Palestinian people's cause. He stressed the need to find solutions to the Palestinian deportees problem and to remove the obstacles from path of the Middle East peace process.

The meeting was attended by brothers Yahya Rabah, Palestinian ambassador in Sanaa, and Ahamd (?Mufrij), commander of the Palestinian forces in (?Yemen).

Meeting With Salih

JN2102175793 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today received brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, the state of Palestine's president. They discussed [words indistinct] and issues of interest to our Arab nation.

The Palestinian president updated the brother chairman of the Presidential Council on Palestinian developments against the backdrop of mounting Zionist brutalizations of Palestinians in the occupied territory. 'Arafat and Salih also discussed the Palestinian deportees issue and Arab and international moves to secure implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799. They also talked about the foundering peace process due to Zionist intransigence.

The brother chairman reiterated our country's principled support for the Palestinian people's struggle for their legitimate rights. He appealed to the international community to assume its responsibility toward the Palestinian Arab people's cause and the plight of the expellees stranded in south Lebanon.

The talks were attended by brother Yahya Rabah, the ambassador of the state of Palestine, and Brigadier General Bu-Humayd, commander of the Palestinian forces in our country.

Foreign Minister: No Kuwaitis Held in Iraq

JN2002134693 Baghdad INA in English 1325 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 20, INA—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has affirmed that there is not any Kuwaiti national held in Iraq, and the goal behind the continued claims by the Kuwaiti regime is to perpetuate the comprehensive blockade imposed on Iraq for long time.

Mr. Taha Ahmad al-Dawud, member of the Arab and International Relations Committee at the Iraqi National Assembly who took part in the recent meeting of the Arab League Council told AL-JUMHURIYAH paper that this assertion by Mr. al-Sahhaf released in a meeting with Arab league Secretary-General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid held recently in Cairo.

Mr. al-Dawud said that the meeting was candid and Mr. al-Sahhaf briefed Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid on the crisis fabricated by the coalition forces against Iraq either for the missiles or the use of the Iraqi aircrafts to transport the U.N. inspection teams.

Mr. al-Dawud added that the Arab League chief expressed understanding of Iraq's point of view and he stressed on Iraq's unity and sovereignty.

Defense Minister Attends Military Exercise

JN2102205493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council and defense minister, today attended the Leader's Sword live-fire tactical exercise, carried out by the Jawdat formation of the heroic al-Harith Forces command in the al- Yarmuk Forces' operations sector. The al-Harith Forces commander, who holds the rank of staff brigadier general; his staff officers; and those participating in the exercise, gave an explanation of the nature of the exercise and the lessons sought from it, as well as the plan and duties of the combat and services units.

In a speech during the discussions, the fighter defense minister said: The purpose of the various tactical exercises is to train the soldiers of our brave Iraqi Army formations and the units that are affiliated with them in all the combat possibilities at the minimum human and material losses in order to achieve the best results by designing the idea of the exercise, as well as the actual potentials available for the commanders.

Following the implementation of the exercise, the fighter defense minister praised the distinguished performance of the Jawdat formation and the units affiliated with it. The al-Harith Forces commander pledged to leader President Saddam Husayn that they would remain soldiers who are loyal to the principles and who are ready to sacrifice their souls in defense of great Iraq's territory against all evil enemies.

The exercise was attended by fighter Staff General Iyad Futayyih Khalifah al-Rawi, chief of staff of the Army; a number of his aides; the al-Yarmuk Forces commander, who holds the rank of staff major general; the comrade secretary of the al-Harith branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, who holds the rank of colonel; and a number of fighters from the heroic 2d Army Corps.

Kurds' Conditions Said Due to Foreign Presence

JN2002141693 Baghdad INA in English 1345 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 20, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Iraq has confirmed that Kurds in northern Iraq are now suffering tragic conditions caused by foreign presence in the region.

In an article today, ther paper said the daily escapes of Kurdish families clearly confirmed the humiliating situation reached as a result of the domination of U.S. intelligence agents over the region.

The paper referred to the class discrimination separating the Kurdish leadership from the rest of the people, stressing that the U.S. agents who were used to living on foreign leftovers did not care how others got their food.

The paper added, since all developments point to the fact that the course of events was not running in the favour of those agents, then they would have to choose either to repent or leave the country.

The paper concluded that the people of Kurdistan eagerly waited for President Saddam Husayn to rescue them from the humiliating circumstances imposed upon them by the traitorous agents.

Deportees Arrive in Safwan From Kuwait

JN2102162293 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 19 Feb 93 p 1

[Text] Al-Basrah—The authorities of the regime imposed on Kuwait have deported a new group of Iraqi and Arab nationals, who were exposed to a series of pressures and inhuman practices and forced to leave the country.

A group of 58 Iraqi, Jordanian, and Palestinian nationals, including a number of stateless families, who were forced to leave after they were exposed to suffering at the hands of the regime, have recently arrived in Safwan.

The group also includes four deportees, who were sentenced to different terms in prison on false charges and were tortured and terrorized in the city's prisons.

Cabinet Briefed on Preparations for Christopher Visit

TA2102172293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Secretary of State Warren Christopher is due to arrive in Jerusalem tomorrow. Mr. Christopher telephoned Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin over the weekend and updated the Israeli leader on his meetings in Egypt. At today's cabinet session, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that he had received the impression that the United States upheld the compromise agreement on the deportees and would not impose additional concessions on Israel. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports.

[Begin recording] [Gutman] Secretary of State Warren Christopher will land in Israel tomorrow afternoon. This evening, the prime minister and foreign minister will hold consultations to formulate the Israel positions. At its weekly session today, the cabinet did not discuss the political preparations made prior to Christopher's visit. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin briefed the ministers on his telephone conversation with the secretary of state over the weekend when the latter was in Amman. Rabin said that Christopher updated him on the results of the meetings in Egypt but there were no reports of any new proposals raised during the conversation.

Rabin asked the ministers not to raise the level of expectations from the visit beyond that expressed by the Americans themselves. At the end of the meeting, Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish estimated that progress should not be expected during this visit.

[Harish] He described his visit as a fact-finding trip. He is expected to collect all the data. My personal assessment is that the prime minister's visit to the United States and his meeting with the U.S. President will constitute the focal moment in the Israeli-U.S. move and the continuation of the political process.

[Gutman] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres reviewed his talks in the United States and said that he had received the impression that the Clinton administration is friendly to Israel. Peres told the ministers that the Americans will honor the compromise agreement on the deportees and have no intention of forcing anything on Israel.

Prime Minister Rabin did not raise the possibility of additional concessions regarding the deportees. Nevertheless, it was reported at today's session that the review process of the deportees' files is continuing and has reached an advanced stage. As for Israel making goodwill gestures toward the Palestinians in the territories preparatory to the resumption of the peace negotiations, Prime Minister Rabin scolded the ministers for leaking reports to the media in this regard, but the cabinet held no serious discussion on the matter.

At the conclusion of the cabinet session, Health Minister Hayim Ramon and Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein stressed that while it is possible that Israel will make some goodwill gestures toward the Palestinians, this is not an issue of fundamental importance.

[Rubinstein] The question of the standard of living or quality of life in the territories is on the agenda all the time. We are always interested in improving the standard of living within the limits of security constraints. We have always shown a great deal of goodwill on this matter, and this is still the case today. Our present challenge is to get ourselves back to the negotiating table. Obviously, the appropriate place to discuss any issue of fundamental importance relating to the negotiations is at the negotiating table itself, and not within the framework of preliminary discussions or negotiations held before the actual talks themselves.

[Ramon] Of course everything possible must be done to improve the living conditions of local residents under the Military Government and military occupation, but I would like to state clearly that it is not the biggest problem, and I believe that concentrating on this could distract our attention from the major issues.

[Gutman] Prior to Warren Christopher's trip, which begins tomorrow, the ministers were briefed about the demonstrations that are scheduled to be held in Jerusalem; however, Prime Minister Rabin reassured the ministers by saying that the government was familiar with such demonstrations, which are part of Israeli public life. [end recording]

Army on Alert

TA2102054993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is on alert for the upcoming visit in Israel by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Military sources told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that the IDF units in the territories and along the Lebanese border have been placed on alert for fear that terror organizations might attempt to carry out attacks during the visit.

Golan Settlers To Rally

TA2102190993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] The committee of Golan settlements has asked the American Embassy for permission to meet with Secretary of State Christopher during his stay in Israel. The committee members said in their request that Israel had turned the Golan from a launch pad of Syrian antagonism into an area of peace and tranquillity. The statement says residents of the Golan would like to serve as a bridge to peace with the Arabs.

Police meanwhile have granted the Golan settlers a permit to demonstrate outside the Prime Minister's

Office when Rabin is scheduled to meet with Christopher on Tuesday [23 February]. Police, however, have turned down their request to march to the American Consulate. That issue will be taken up by the High Court tomorrow.

Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan says the refusal of the government and police to allow Golan settlers to march proves that the government has decided to liquidate Israel's presence on the Golan Heights. He said the step was due to political pressure.

Leftist Activists Demonstrate

TA2202173493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] This evening Meretz, Peace Now, and HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] activists demonstrated outside the U.S. Embassy in Israel. The activists called on Secretary of State Christopher to exert pressure on Israel to return all the deportees to thaw the peace process.

Golan Heights settlers and Gush Emunim members plan a series of protest measures to be carried out during the visit of the secretary of state, among them dumping snow outside the Prime Minister's Office.

Peres Hopes Christopher To Crack Syrian 'Enigma'

TA1902190193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Shlomo Ganor at Ben-Gurion Airport on 19 February, following his return from the United States—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Peres] During Secretary of State Warren Christopher's current visit to Israel, he will examine the chances for progress, but the Middle East countries will also gauge the new administration's real temperament regarding the peace process. I believe they will find the U.S. Administration keenly interested in this issue. I also believe that a very serious attempt will be made during this visit to set the date for the resumption of the peace talks, and perhaps this trip will give us the chance to clarify slightly the Syrian position. We are all familiar with the Syrian formula: full peace in return for full withdrawal. I proposed a different formula: real peace, to be accompanied by a real withdrawal. Everything of course depends on the nature of the peace.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, the Arab side continues to hold the deportee affair as a bargaining chip. Is Israel being asked to make additional gestures?

[Peres] Not that I know of. Israel is being asked to show what I would call greater openness regarding the peace process, but not on the deportees. As for the deportee affair, we have already said that we did not make our participation in the peace process conditional on the Arabs' stopping their violence, so how can they ask us to stop taking action to quell that violence while the peace process is under way? After all, we are merely reacting to events, not creating them. The formula we used, which stipulated that deportations were not Israeli policy but rather constituted a deviation from it, was clearly accepted by everyone to whom we spoke.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, the Palestinians are calling for greater American involvement in the negotiating process, including the physical presence of U.S. officials in the actual meetings. What do you think of that demand?

[Peres] I think that the Palestinians are making a mistake. I think that the formula that is acceptable to all three sides and rejects any forced solution, is the correct approach. This does not mean that the United States cannot try to bridge gaps when we get into a bind or run into a brick wall, just as it has up to now.

[Ganor] Mr. Foreign Minister, in light of the Palestinian position, will Israel now prefer to expedite negotiations on the Syrian track?

[Peres] We are definitely ready to expedite things, but while the Syrians may have changed their strategy, they remain a riddle. The Syrians have always been part strategy and part enigma. I think Mr. Christopher will try to see whether this enigma can be deciphered in the near future.

Views Deportees Issue

TA1902202193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said he was convinced that it was the Moroccan king who gave clear instructions to Morocco's ambassador at the United Nations to remove the deportee affair from the Security Council's agenda. The Moroccan ambassador currently serves as the president of the Security Council. Returning from a working trip to the United States this afternoon, the foreign minister noted that the new U.S. Administration is friendly toward Israel and has no intention of cutting back on financial aid. Mr. Peres added that Secretary of State Warren Christopher was quick to leave for the Middle East to set a date for the resumption of the peace negotiations. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik spoke with Foreign Minister Peres today.

[Begin recording] [Peres] In my assessment, the administration is a friendly one that will adopt a serious approach toward the peace process. While this administration will not attempt to impose a solution, it will not miss any chances. It has received the good feeling of winning some positive points, at least in its first test on the deportee affair.

[Sukenik] Mr. Peres, what are the chances of setting a date for the resumption of the peace talks during the secretary of state's visit?

[Peres] There is no certainty, but there is a chance.

[Sukenik] Do you think that the deportee affair is finally off the agenda, or could it pop up again during Christopher's meetings in Israel?

[Peres] The issue has not been removed from the agenda, but the United States promised not to make further demands of Israel. That was stipulated in the agreement reached between the Israeli prime minister and the American secretary of state, and I have received the impression that the secretary of state will honor that agreement. [end recording]

Further on Syrian Peace

NC2002190093 London MBC Television in Arabic 1820 GMT 2093

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by MBC Washington correspondent 'Aziz Fahmi in Washington, date not given—recorded; interview conducted in English with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Peres] They [the Syrians] were not specific about the nature of the peace. For example, they said they are not ready to have embassies. They are not ready to have open borders. Now, you cannot have stars without having a sky. You cannot have a peace without being specific about the peace itself. And then, I think, for the need of Syria as well as for our own need we have to agree about the nature and the dimensions of the security measures. We know that the Golan Heights is very close to Damascus, only 60 km. We don't want the Syrians to be nervous and we say let's agree on the specifics of peace. Let's agree on the parameters of security and then we shall be able to decide about the size of our withdrawal.

[Fahmi] [Syrian Foreign Minister] Mr. al-Shar' said a few days ago that Syria is ready for full peace in return for full withdrawal. Is Israel ready for that?

[Peres] My reply is that let's have a real peace against a real withdrawal. And let's sit down with maps and parameters and agree on both accounts, and we are ready to do it. Look: We feel there is a change in Syria which we appreciate very much, that we would like to encourage, to deepen, and we would like to live in peace with the Syrians. You know, the Syrians are not our enemies. We don't have as an enemy neither the people nor the religion. Our enemies is a state of mind, a suspicion, a hatred, a belligerency. And for the good of all of the people, we have to get rid of it and come to normal life, to positive relations, to the demilitarization of the whole setup in the Middle East.

[Fahmi] The Palestinians rejected the American-Israeli deal on the deportees and they refused to go back to the peace talks. I heard reports that when Mr. Secretary will be in Israel he will be discussing the possibility of taking more than the 100 deportees before 15 April. Is that true?

[Peres] Yes, I think all of us would like to speed up the opening of the peace negotiations with the Palestinians. You know, as Saudi Arabia wouldn't like to see the Iraqis winning in Kuwait, I think the Palestinians shouldn't be interested to see the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] winning in Israel or in the territories. After all, Hamas is an enemy of the peace, is an enemy of the negotiations, is endangering the negotiators.

Rabin Challenges Syria To Explain Meaning of Peace

TA1902183993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Address by Prime Minister Rabin before the Commercial and Industrial Club in Tel Aviv on 19 February—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] I do not expect miracles to happen in one visit. The Americans very wisely refrained from creating exaggerated expectations. I have no doubt, however, that 1993 and perhaps early 1994 will be the period during which the peace negotiations will reach a crossroads with regard to which way they are headed; whether they are moving toward the promotion of peace, or whether—God forbid, and I do not believe that this will be the case—they are approaching a deadend with all the attendant dangers of political deadlock.

As for the Syrians, I have already stated my longstanding position that we would be willing to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to reach peace with Syria. The meaning of this is readiness for an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal on the Golan Heights to secure and recognized borders, but we will not negotiate the dimensions of the withdrawal before Syria explains to us what it means when it says peace. Does peace mean borders that are open for the free passage of people and goods, diplomatic relations including embassies, and above all a policy by both governments' encouraging a normalization in relations between the people of both countries?

In addition, once a peace agreement is signed, it must stand firmly on its own two feet and not be influenced by progress or lack of progress in the negotiations with the other Arab partners.

Syria has still not replied. Therefore, we also have not specified the dimensions of our withdrawal on the Golan Heights.

Rabin's Bureau Refutes DIE WELT on Golan Withdrawal

TA2102190693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] The German newspaper DIE WELT is about to publish an interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in which the prime minister is quoted as saying

that the Syrians understand that Israel is ready to withdraw from the Golan Heights.

The quote appeared in a sneak preview prior to the newspaper's publication tomorrow. DIE WELT also quotes the prime minister as saying that Israel would be ready to withdraw from the Golan Heights if Damascus would agree to sign a bilateral peace treaty and establish normal relations with the State of Israel.

In the interview, Mr. Rabin expressed the hope that Israel would sign a peace agreement with at least one neighboring Arab state this year and said that failure to reach such an agreement would lead to a rise in regional tension.

Sources at the prime minister's bureau told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that the statements published in DIE WELT were not true. The sources said that the prime minister never made these remarks and asserted that Mr. Rabin firmly adhered to the formulas that he has presented in the past.

Beilin Assesses Situation on Eve of Christopher's Visit

TA2202163393 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Studio interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by David Witzthum—live]

[Text] [Witzthum] We would like to hear from you about Israel's position. Do you subscribe to the assessment that upon Christopher's arrival the compromise deal we reached with the Americans on the deportees puts Israel at a disadvantage even before the game has begun?

[Beilin] First of all, it puts Israel in a situation whereby the Arab countries realize that the United States has a very special relation with Israel. The agreement we attained with regard to the UN Security Council resolution—or rather, the absence of such a resolution—has made the Arabs realize our strength and that they must take the U.S.-Israeli relationship into account, which means that we are in an advantageous position.

[Witzthum] What are our priorities? Earlier in our program YEDI'OT AHARONOT's political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer talked about the Syrian versus the Palestinian issue. Does Syria really have first priority?

[Beilin] We have no priorities. We would like to pursue the peace process with everybody, with all the Arab countries and with the Palestinians. We are certainly aware of the fact that the Palestinian problem is the crux of the conflict between us and the Arab world. At least as far as we are concerned, we will not let the Palestinians veto any negotiations with any other Arab element. Therefore, if the Arab countries are prepared to negotiate, reach understandings with us, and advance toward peace while the Palestinians stay out of the process—which I hope will not be the case—we will pursue the process with them.

[Witzthum] What about the magic words FW [full withdrawal] mentioned by Shim'on Schiffer with regard to the Golan Heights? What is the Israeli position today?

[Beilin] The magic words mentioned by Schiffer, FW, will not be uttered. There is definitely a change in the position we presented. I disagree with Mr. Schiffer that there has been no change in the last few months; there has definitely been a significant change in the sense that the Syrians are talking about peace, about a full peace, while we talk about a withdrawal on the Golan Heights rather than from the Golan Heights. We are talking about a very serious matter, and the negotiations will be lengthy. We will not say that we are prepared for a full withdrawal because we are not. We believe that very significant achievements can be made with the Syrians even without a full withdrawal. The negotiations will not be simple or easy. We will insist on our demands, and they will most certainly insist on theirs. I believe that U.S. involvement will be vital to get closer to an agreement and understanding.

[Witzthum] Let us be more specific. Israeli sources have quoted Americans as saying that there is a good potential today for an agreement with regard to the Golan Heights. Can you already say anything concrete on the issue?

[Beilin] No, there is nothing concrete beyond the understanding —indeed, a significant understanding—we reached in the talks held in Washington up to the eve of President Clinton's inauguration. The two delegations reached a certain measure of understanding on several spheres. The extent of Israel's withdrawal and the nature of the Syrian peace—these are the two key questions currently on the agenda. I definitely believe that this is what makes the Americans optimistic about their ability to bridge the gaps in the positions of the sides. I have great faith in our ability to reach peace with the Syrians, and not just with them, in 1993.

[Witzthum] Sir, do you sense a new spirit, new ideas, a new kind of policy on the part of Clinton's Democratic Washington?

[Beilin] I am very optimistic about what we have been hearing so far concerning the talks Secretary of State Christopher has been holding with the Arab leaders. He has been making plain to them the distinction between the deportation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members and the peace process, and he has been telling them that there is a commitment and willingness on the part of the United States to become far more involved in the political process. I am sure that we are not talking about pressure. I think that U.S. involvement in the political process is the key for a true advancement of the peace process. I believe that without the Americans there will be no peace in the Middle East. Whether we like this fact or not is a different question altogether, but without them there will be no peace. It seems to me

that here we have a team that is prepared to get down to business and a team with which we will be able to advance the process.

Ambassador to U.S. on Christopher Visit

TA2202122893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States, by Sheli Yehimovich—live]

[Text] [Yehimovich] Good day to Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States and the head of our negotiating team with the Syrians.

[Rabinovich] Good day.

[Yehimovich] Is the secretary of state really arriving—as at least one newspaper headline blared—with explicit demands or requests for goodwill gestures and concessions on the Golan Heights?

[Rabinovich] No, I do not think this is the case. At any rate, nobody is talking about demands, and I think it is also premature to speak about requests. The word concession has also not appeared on the agenda. We have been conducting negotiations with the Syrians for quite some time. The talks were going nicely last summer and fall, and I think that anyone who was closely monitoring their progress, like the Americans, realizes that the ball is currently in the Syrian and not the Israeli court. Therefore, I do not think that anyone should come to us with requests and certainly not with demands.

[Yehimovich] So what is the purpose of this visit?

[Rabinovich] I would divide the issue into three parts: First, to get to know the players and become acquainted with the leaders of the countries participating in the peace process. Second, to form a firsthand impression from the facts on the ground. Third, to begin the dual process of getting the talks moving again together with an initial attempt to gauge their possible direction once they are restarted.

[Yehimovich] As far as what you call getting the talks moving again, will Secretary of State Christopher leave here with a specific date for resuming the talks or will the date have to wait for Prime Minister Rabin's meeting with President Clinton?

[Rabinovich] I do not think that a meeting between the prime minister and the President should be devoted to something like setting a date. I am not certain that the final date can be set already this week, but there is plenty of time between the secretary of state's visit and the prime minister's departure for a date to be fixed, on condition that the secretary finds readiness among the Arabs not so much to actually attend the talks but rather to surmount the secondary technical obstacles that are still preventing us from resuming the talks.

[Yehimovich] I think that there is general agreement that the Palestinians currently pose the major problem. What should be done to bring the Palestinians to the talks?

[Rabinovich] I do not think that very much should be done. After all, this peace process is something that Israel, a large part of the Arab world, and most of the Palestinians want. It is something that enjoys the support of the United States, which is the world's only superpower, and of a great many countries in the region. I think it would be giving out the wrong message to say that the peace process cannot be resumed without implementing this or that gesture demanded by some of the Palestinians. If this is the case, then maybe the peace process is not so important after all. If the peace process is important, then this should not pose an obstacle.

[Yehimovich] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that there will be no additional demands for concessions on the deportee affair and that the matter is closed. Do you share this assessment?

[Rabinovich] Yes, I think the foreign minister was referring to the fact that there will be no further demands from the United States. I do not think this is a question of evaluation but rather of concrete knowledge. We coordinated our steps with the Americans both in formulating the original agreement on 1 February, as well as in getting the issue through the Security Council. I do not think the Americans would want to undermine their credibility and harm the good working relations the new U.S. Administration established with Israel by reopening the agreement. Therefore, I would consider this a very safe evaluation.

[Yehimovich] In other words, there will be no additional U.S. demands regarding the deportees?

[Rabinovich] I cannot, of course, state with any degree of finality whether such demands will be posited. I can only assess that there is no room for such demands and estimate that the visiting U.S. officials will not wish to undermine their credibility by raising such demands.

[Yehimovich] Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the biggest question now being asked in Jerusalem is whether the United States will step up its involvement in the peace process and become an active mediator. Is the United States really going to take a more active role in the process?

[Rabinovich] I think that the Americans sent a dual message. First, they want to become an active partner and, if you will permit me to correct you, they are using the term active partner not mediator. They seek to become an active partner, and they have already used this term—which is familiar to us from the 1970's—several times. The other part of the message, however, is that they will only be ready to do this if, during their talks in the region, they reach the conclusion that the process has a chance of succeeding. They do not wish to become an active partner in a process that fails. One should bear in mind that Secretary of State Christopher's

trip is not over yet. He is due to arrive in Israel and to hold meetings with both Israeli and Palestinian officials. I think that the Americans will only forge their assessments about whether the suitable potential has been created here when their visit ends on Thursday.

[Yehimovich] Will we have a peace agreement with Syria at the end of the process?

[Rabinovich] We, of course, hope that will be the case, but we cannot know. When we speak about an agreement or a breakthrough in 1993, we are not referring to a peace agreement. We are talking about an initial agreement. We think there is good potential for reaching such an agreement, but we must bear in mind that this will not be a peace agreement.

[Yehimovich] A peace agreement would be the next stage?

[Rabinovich] That is correct.

[Yehimovich] Thank you, Prof. Rabinovich.

Government Reaction to Christopher's Talks Viewed

TA2102071593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Interview with correspondent Natan Gutman by announcer Gay Zohar in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Zohar] We have just heard our Arab affairs correspondent's report on the meetings U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is holding in the Arab countries. He is meeting al-Asad in Damascus this morning for what is considered one of his most important discussions in our region. Western diplomatic sources have reported that the United States is working toward upgrading negotiations between Israel and the Arabs to the foreign ministerial level. However, we will start with the deportee issue, which featured in the talks in Egypt. Was a new compromise discussed?

[Gutman] Jerusalem had thought that it would not have to deal with the deportees issue at all, but the fact that the affair was so frequently mentioned by Christopher and his aides made it clear to the Jerusalem decision-makers that they will have to address the issue of the deportees during the visit. Apparently, discussions will center on the evaluation and appeal committees during talks in Jerusalem. Jerusalem sources made it clear that there is no intention of making new compromises on the issue and that the compromise deal with the United States is valid. At the same time, we were told by political sources in Jerusalem that there is a lot of room for flexibility in this compromise deal. This flexibility could be expressed through the inspection and not the appeal committees. The inspection committees are reviewing the cases of the 300 deportees who were not to be returned at once. Christopher will be told that these committees will present their conclusions soon—in a few weeks, perhaps—and that there is room for flexibility on this. Therefore, there is no need for a new compromise deal or for the cabinet to hold a special session to discuss new compromises.

[Zohar] Does Jerusalem reject Christopher's remark regarding U.S. full and active involvement in the peace process, which the Arabs seem to like?

[Gutman] In general, it does, but we should pay attention to nuances here. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said last week that he does not believe that peace agreements in the Middle East could be made in the coming year without active U.S. involvement. Prime Minister Rabin also spoke of such an involvement. Defining the level of involvement, Jerusalem sources said they would like it to follow the Baker and not the Kissinger example, meaning active involvement, yes, but no pressure. If the United States intends to take an active part in the process, hold shuttle missions, deliver compromise offers from one party to another, this is definitely acceptable to Jerusalem, assuming that this is the only option to promote the process. At the same time, however, if the United States wants—and Jerusalem believes this is what the Arabs want—to place U.S. observers in the negotiating room to get them actively involved in the Washington discussions, Israel cannot accept this.

[Zohar] How does Jerusalem react to the U.S. offer to raise the level of the discussions to one of foreign ministers?

[Gutman] Almost naturally, Jerusalem absolutely rejects such a possibility. The prime minister does not want to raise the level of the discussions to foreign ministerial level, and he has several reasons for that. First, there is the formal problem of who is to be the Palestinian foreign minister. Jerusalem fears that when the issue is foreign ministers, the Palestinians would eventually point at the Palestine National Council, which is unacceptable to Israel.

Naturally, there is also the internal political problem in Israel. Prime Minister Rabin has announced that he is the one in charge of the bilateral negotiations and that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is in charge of only the multilateral negotiations. Therefore, it is impossible for Israel to send Foreign Minister Peres to take charge of the bilateral negotiations as well. The prime minister simply cannot agree to that.

'Unofficial' Palestinian Solution Suggested on Deportees

TA2102110993 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 21 Feb 93 p 4

[Report by Yoram Binur]

[Text] For the first time yesterday, a prominent Palestinian political source suggested an unofficial proposal for solving the problem of the deportees. The source

believes the crisis could be solved if Rabin allows the return of some 200 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members who were deported to Lebanon, as well as 200 Palestinian deportees from other organizations who have been deported since 1967 and currently reside in the Arab states.

The source, which plays a prominent political role in the Palestinian side and is in daily contact with PLO branches overseas as well as PLO leaders in the territories, said that if Israel made such a proposal to the Palestinian delegation officially the latter would have to reject it. "We could not officially agree to such a proposal because we would be chastened by Hamas. Rabin should go ahead and make such a unilateral move without asking the delegation members or any other Palestinian. Such a move would have various advantages: Hamas would have no complaints because 150 to 200 of its men would be allowed to return, Rabin would be able to tell the Israelis that he was pursuing the fight against Hamas since some of the deportees would nevertheless remain in exile, while the returned deportees would any way be men who were not involved in any organizational or military activities."

The source believes that if permits were given to some 200 "old time" deportees to return to the territories most of them would not take advantage of them, but such a move would give credibility and strengthen the Palestinian delegation.

Envoy Cites U.S. Note Rejecting Kyrgyz Embassy Plan

TA2102125793 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Feb 93 p 1

[By Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Israeli Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan Ben-Tziyon Karmel claims he has learned that the United States was involved in pressuring the Kyrgyz Government to renege on its plans to open an embassy in Jerusalem. Karmel writes in a report to the Foreign Ministry that he saw a letter from a U.S. source quoting the administration as saying that although it takes a positive view of Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev's visit to Israel, Washington believes the decision to open an embassy in the capital is ill-timed and might become "an obstacle in the peace talks." Karmel notes that Akayev came under heavy pressure from Muslim countries and although he wanted to keep his promise, he was forced to put off the opening of the embassy because of his country's economic difficulties. Nevertheless, at Karmel's suggestion, the Kyrgyz Government agreed to what he terms "a fair compromise": to open an embassy in Jerusalem after an agreement has been signed to hold elections to the Palestinian autonomy council. During his visit to Israel two months ago, Akayev announced his plans to open an embassy in Jerusalem in exchange for Israel's promise to open an embassy in his capital, Bishkek. It should be pointed out that at the time the promise was made Foreign Ministry officials estimated that Akayev would have to go back on his plans in the wake of heavy pressures.

EC Protests Saudi, Kuwaiti Funding of Radical Movements

TA2202084193 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Feb 93 p 2

[By Hemi Shalev]

[Text] The EC has filed a protest with the Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti Governments for financing radical international Muslim movements and has asked that the two governments investigate the organizations enjoying their generosity. A report that arrived in Jerusalem from the EC offices in Brussels indicates that in their protest, the EC ambassadors in Riyadh and Kuwait made it clear that they are concerned about the fact that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are "indiscriminately" providing international Muslim organizations with financial aid, which often strengthens violent groups, destabilizes the regimes of the countries in which they operate, and even harms the peace process, as the critics put it. This unusual protest was filed alongside the protest filed with Jerusalem over the increasing number of fatalities in the territories. The protests indicate that the European countries are increasingly aware of the threats inherent in the spread of Islamic fundamentalism. The EC ambassadors' interlocutors in both countries have promised to study the protest and respond in the future.

Police Detain Man Suspected of Planning Aloni Murder

TA2202133793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] The valleys subdistrict police have apprehended a man suspected of planning to purchase firearms to murder Education and Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni. The man, a 29-year-old resident of 'Afula, is suspected of planning to buy a pistol from a criminal. Police suspect that religious circles asked him to murder Minister Aloni. This case was discovered during the investigation of a postal bank robbery. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports the suspect is cooperating with his interrogators. He will be remanded in the 'Afula magistrate's court tomorrow.

One 'Terrorist' Killed, One Injured in Tulkarm Clash

TA1902210993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] A terrorist was killed and another was injured in a clash with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in the Tulkarm refugee camp. The injured terrorist managed to escape. The soldiers spotted two masked men carrying weapons and shot and wounded them. One of the terrorists died of his wounds while the other was injured

but managed to escape. Official military sources reported the incident to our correspondent Gil Litman.

New Organization in Territories Calls for United Arab Army

TA2102111493 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Feb 93 p 2

[ITIM report]

[Text] A new organization, "Guardians of the Land," distributed a leaflet in the Tulkarm area on Friday.

The leaflet is interspersed with Koran verses and calls for the establishment of a united Arab army to fight the Zionists and liberate "occupied Palestine."

Arab sources note that the previously unknown organization has Muslim characteristics.

Casualties Reported From Territories' Unrest

TA2102201793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] A passenger was slightly grazed by shots fired by terrorists at an Egged bus near the Tapuah junction in the area of Nabulus tonight. Several bullets hit the bus. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] closed off the area.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the body of a resident of the village of Biddiya was found in the vicinity of the village of Mashah on the trans-Samaria highway. He is believed to have been murdered as a suspected collaborator.

In Nabulus, a baby girl and a 20-year-old woman were injured by IDF soldiers' gunfire at a group of stone throwers. The commander of IDF troops in Judaea and Samaria expressed sorrow at the injury to the baby.

A 13-year-old youth was injured by IDF soldiers' fire at stone throwers in al-Birah.

Army Denies Exchanges of Fire in South Lebanon

TA2002115393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Israeli Army sources say there is no truth to the report coming out of Lebanon of exchanges of fire between Israeli and South Lebanese forces, and the terrorists. This morning Lebanese radio stations reported that Israeli positions fired machine guns and tanks situated in the security zone at targets in al-Nabatiyah, Jarju', and Tibnin.

Captured Guerrilla Admits Iranians Training Hizballah

TA1902195393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Israel is holding a Hizballah guerrilla who was part of the convoy Hizballah leader 'Abbas al-Musawi was riding in when he was assassinated by Israel Air Force helicopters approximately one year ago. Our correspondent Yoram Kohen met today with the Hizballah guerrilla held in Israel.

[Begin recording in Arabic with Hebrew subtitles, processed from Arabic] [passage omitted] [Kohen] After the incident, was there a search for Israeli collaborators inside Hizballah?

[Guerrilla] When such an incident takes place, certainly every party launches an investigation.

[Kohen] Following the incident, were there any changes in guarding Hizballah officials?

[Guerrilla] Yes, changes took place and officials were more carefully guarded.

[Kohen] For example?

[Guerrilla] Officials would not leave in large convoys to the south.

[Kohen] Did you take part in terrorist operations against Israel or the South Lebanese Army?

[Guerrilla] Yes, I participated.

[Kohen] How many times?

[Guerrilla] Three, four times.

[Kohen] Where did you receive military training?

[Guerrilla] In Ba'labakk. In Janta.

[Kohen] In Janta?

[Guerrilla] Yes, in the camp there.

[Kohen] Did you see Syrian soldiers in the camp?

[Guerrilla] No, there were no Syrian soldiers in Janta.

[Kohen] Did you see Iranian officials during your training in al-Biqa'?

[Guerrilla] There were Iranian instructors.

[Kohen] Did they speak Arabic?

[Guerrilla] No, they had a translator. [end recording]

Christopher Arrives, Welcomed by Foreign Minister

JN1902190793 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1818 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Statements by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, after Christopher's arrival in Amman "a short while ago"—recorded, in English]

[Text] [Abu-Jabir] Mr. and Mrs. Christopher, I am very pleased to welcome you sir to Jordan as well as your accompanying delegation. Your visit at this particular moment illustrates the depth of U.S. commitment to the cause of peace in this region. It also provides us with the opportunity to discuss with you our bilateral relations, and to explore the ways to further strengthening them. We look forward to our talks, seeking how best to advance and accelerate the peace process and ensure its success, currently facing serious threats. It is our hope sir that your efforts will bring about a viable solution that we all seek.

Mr. Christopher, I would like to reiterate on this occasion Jordan's firm commitment to the process that was launched in Madrid with the aim of achieving comprehensive, just, and lasting peace to the Arab-Israeli and the Palestinian-Israeli conflicts on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the concept of land for peace. This commitment has been clearly demonstrated, especially in the efforts leading to Madrid, as well as in all the rounds of both bilateral and multilateral negotiations. However, sir, since Madrid, the tension in the region has not subsided with the level of Israeli violence in the occupied territories increasing, the current deportee problem being one symptom.

Mr. Christopher, we will listen attentively to your assessment of the situation in the whole region, and we will share with you our views regarding the need for a comprehensive peace—a comprehensive peace that will enhance regional security, that will enhance democratization, that will enhance human rights, and also will end the suffering of all the peoples in this part of the world.

Once again sir, I welcome you and Mrs. Christopher, as well as your accompanying delegation, and wish you all a pleasant and productive stay in Jordan. Thank you.

[Christopher] Mr. Foreign Minister, thank you very much for that warm and thoughtful welcome. It's a great pleasure to be in Amman tonight as I go about my process of trying to reactivate the peace process. President Clinton has sent me to this region, as you recognized and acknowledged, Mr. Foreign Minister, as a sign of his commitment to the cause of Middle East peace. He said—I want to reiterate this on my arrival here in Jordan—that the United States is prepared to be a full partner in pursuit of that cause, provided the other parties share our determination to resume the negotiations and to promote peace. We will do our part if they do theirs.

I look forward to my discussions with you, Mr. Foreign Minister, and with King Husayn, knowing the critical role that Jordan has played in connection with the Madrid conference, launching of the peace negotiations, and in carrying them forward. I am interested in hearing the king's views and yours on what Jordan and the United States can do together to reenergize the peace negotiations. We will, of course, also be discussing a wide range of other issues of mutual interest, regional issues, local issues, and global issues. In particular, I look forward to discussing the king's commitment to democratic values and to a broad and political participation of commitment that we very much applaud.

Mr. Foreign Minister, Jordan is a long-time and valued friend of the United States, and I look forward to discussing ways that we can strengthen and improve that long-standing friendship. Thank you so much for your greeting tonight, Mr. Foreign Minister, and I look forward to a good day with you tomorrow. Thank you, sir.

King, Christopher Make Statements

JN2002164993 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Statements by King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Amman on 20 February—recorded, in English with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Husayn] Mr. Secretary, ladies and gentlemen: It is a very great pleasure for us to welcome you, sir, and Mrs. Christopher, and the accompanying delegation, here in Amman. I do so on behalf of the government and the people of Jordan, and Queen Nur.

It is a wonderful opportunity for us to reestablish contact and to welcome an old and dear friend to this country again. We are indeed hopeful and encouraged by the genuine desire which we feel is there, which we know we have, and we hope that our friends have in the United States, to renew and reinvigorate the friendship of many, many years between our two countries and nations, and certainly in my case, one that has prevailed over the last four decades, based on trust, a feeling of partnership, mutual respect, and the desire to cooperate in all fields and areas.

Mr. Secretary, your visit at this time has given me the opportunity, together with my colleagues, to discuss with you once again, frankly and openly, and to hear from you, views, ideas, and concerns at this critical juncture in the life of this area and this region. And it has been a pleasure for me to restate our total commitment to the cause of a just and durable peace that future generations can enjoy, live with, and protect in this region.

I would like to say that the United States, without a doubt, is the most powerful nation in the world of today. And I feel greatly encouraged at this point in time when President Clinton and the new administration assuming their responsibilities that hopefully it will be far greater, in terms of its impact on the world, on our large global

village, when it can hopefully in the times ahead put together its physical and material strength, together with the principles and ideals on which the United States was founded, which had such an impact on our world and which hopefully again will be the case in the times ahead. I thank you and I will leave it to you, sir, to make any comments you feel you would make, and then I think also take it from there and then see what we will face from our friends here. Thank you very, very much indeed; most welcome.

[Christopher] Your Majesty, ladies and gentlemen: This morning I had very good and wide-ranging meetings here with his majesty the king, with the prime minister and with the foreign minister. We discussed a number of issues—the peace process, our bilateral relations, regional issues. And we discussed at some length, and with great pleasure on my part, the progress of his majesty's government toward democratization and broader political participation, subjects on which I found great interest as I've moved around the country.

President Clinton sent me to this region to convey personally his strong commitment to play a full partnership role in the peace process, to reenergizing, reactivating that process, and to assess the commitment of the parties in this region to that important process. I am here to encourage the resumption of negotiations, particularly because I think all of the countries in this region are committed to positive results in the long run. I want the people of Jordan to know, and of course I have told his majesty the king, with as much emphasis I could summon, that the United States intends to play an active, full partnership role in this process to help the parties to the maximum extent to achieve an important result for this region.

I am very pleased to have heard from his majesty the king an important commitment to the peace process in which Jordan has played such an important role. No country was more important, I believe, in the Madrid conference and no country has made more progress or indeed as much progress as Jordan has in the bilateral and multilateral negotiations. We look forward with great anticipation to working closely with his majesty to seek a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace based upon United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338.

I'll be leaving here for Damascus tonight, but I do want the government here to know, and particularly his majesty the king, that we will stay in close touch, contacting him after I have completed my round, or earlier if that should serve the process of peace. Thank you very much.

Hold News Conference

JN2002185093 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1710 GMT 20 Feb 93

["Full recording" of joint news conference by King Husayn of Jordan and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher with unidentified reporters in Amman on 20 February]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Reporter] Mr. American Secretary: The American Administration accepted the Israeli partial implementation, as we all know, for Security Council [Resolution] 799. Will that indicate in a way or another that at the end of the peace talks, quote unquote, the American Administration also will agree with what the Israelis going to interpret 242 and 338? [question as heard] Thank you.

[Christopher] I hope I've gathered the thrust of that question. Let me begin by saying that the United States continues to believe that deportations are not appropriate under international law, and we have not flinched from or changed that point of view. We believe that the arrangement that we've worked out with Israel is in furtherance of the concept of 799, as the United Nations itself acknowledged and indicated last Friday when they said they took cognizance of the arrangement between the United States and Israel that had been filed with the United Nations. With respect to 242 and 338, I reinforced the United States' commitment to carrying out those resolutions as the fundamental basis for the peace process.

[Reporter] Your Majesty: Would you please tell us.... [pauses] Do you believe that you can now, that Jordan can now, at this moment, return to peace talks with Israel? Or, do you believe that the deportees and the solution that was achieved between the United States and Israel for the deportees must be made better, must somehow be enhanced, before Jordan would feel comfortable going back to the talks?

[Husayn] I believe, if I may add to what the secretary has kindly said, it is very, very important and very significant and vital to have the American wish, manifested in his words and in the words of our friends, regarding the interest in the peace process and the interest and determination to be a full partner in this process leading to the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in this region. I believe that the secretary is touring the area to address problems and to get in touch with the realities as they are at this point in time. And, to that effect, he has kindly suggested that he will keep in touch with us in the times ahead. There are obstacles, obviously, in the path of progress at this stage, and there is great anger and anxiety over the question of the deportees, and, indeed, over the growing number of casualties in the occupied territories in the recent past. But, again, I believe that it is only fair to applaud the position which the secretary has described in terms of international law and in terms of the position that all of us share, I think, and feel regarding people and their rights everywhere; and that this is not a process that is generally accepted without every attempt being made to try to resolve it. So, I hope and pray that before too long we will see conditions right for a resumption of the negotiations on all levels. And, I believe very, very strongly that there should not be too much of a break. And, in other words, we should not let time lapse to the point where we have to have a fresh start. It may never happen. And it is in this spirit that the secretary is in this area to see what can be done and I

hope that he will meet with every success. And, we should certainly do whatever we can to ensure that conditions are right for us to see a resumption of negotiations as soon as possible.

As you know, Jordan has provided an umbrella for a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation; Palestinians dealing with the Palestinian aspect of the problem, and without it reaching success there can't be a solution to the Palestinian problem, which is the core of the whole issue, and Jordanians dealing with their dimension of the problem too. So, it is a difficult moment. But, we hope that the genuine, sincere efforts to resolve the problems that are in our path will succeed and that we will see a resumption of negotiations, with the United States being a full partner in trying to secure a just and durable peace that all can accept and all can live with in this region.

[Reporter] May I ask you, Sir, do you hope that the issue of deportees will be put behind us, meaning everyone involved in the peace process? Have you come to the realization that the deportee issue is not in fact behind you, and it still stands in front you as an obstacle to resuming the peace talks you have referred to as an early date?

[Christopher] No, I continue to be optimistic that the parties will recognize that the greater value, the most important step will be to reconvene the peace talks without any substantial delay. This is a historic opportunity, it may be in some respects a onetime opportunity, and I think that the parties will come, I hope, to the realization of that in the near future and I hope that they would recognize that the assistance of the United States and our full involvement, our active involvement in the process, will be a sufficient factor to cause them to want to return to negotiations. I am only beginning this trip, and I would not want to erect any final obstacles or make any final assessment until I made the rounds and talked to all the parties and had the chance to assess the results.

[Reporter] One of the main platforms of the Clinton administration is to promote democracy all over the world and the respect of the human rights, and Jordan's recent advancement on this issue speaks for itself; yet Israel, on the other hand, is continually violating the human rights in the occupied territories. What are you going to do about that?

[Christopher] Let me first say that one of the things I take away from here is a sense of the progress that Jordan has made toward democratization and toward human rights within the country. That comes as a very pleasant realization to me. I've heard more about the details of that than I knew before, and I really commend his majesty and the government here for those important steps forward. Until very recently, Israel was the only democracy in this region of the world. I believe I am roughly accurate in saying that, so they have been early subscribers to the concept of democratization. With respect to the violence in the occupied territories, I would say that that is perhaps the strongest argument that we have for finding a way to restart, reactivate the peace process so that we can get beyond the cause and effect, the ugly cycle of violence begetting violence that has marked the occupied territories.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] that all the parties to recognize that the most important thing is just to get back to the peace talks. Do you include the Israelis in that? In other words, do you include the Israelis among the parties that might have to do more on this deportee issue to get it behind them, or are you just talking about the Palestinians?

[Christopher] I certainly include the Israelis among the parties. There are four bilateral discussions, and a multilateral discussion, and I am quite inclusive in my feeling that the parties to all the bilaterals need to make that recognition. With respect to the Israelis, I think that when you take all five portions of the arrangement with respect to the deportees, that if those five portions are not only agreed to but implemented, that that should be a substantial compliance with Resolution 799 and the parties should come on that basis back to the peace talks, but I do think that this is a matter that's under active consideration and under active discussion among all the parties, and I hope that as the days go by that there will be full recognition of that.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, is Jordan prepared to return to the negotiating table while there are still deportees sitting on the mountain between Lebanon and Israel? Will you come back to the table before all of those people have been returned?

[Husayn] Let me put it very clearly: There is a problem, there has been an obstacle created in the path of progress. So all the attempts that are being made right now are to deal with it and to remove this obstacle from the path of all concerned in this region, so that we move as rapidly as we can and seize the moment because the pressures are immense and the challenges are immense, and the price of failure would be devastating to this entire region.

[Reporter] How do you intend, as the U.S. I mean, to translate your support for Jordan's democratization on real grounds, I mean on economical and financial matters?

[Christopher] You know, I wonder if I could ask you to repeat the question, I thought you were directing it to the king and I didn't quite grasp it.

[Reporter] I mean, how do you intend to translate your support for Jordan; I mean the democratization process on real grounds, financially and economically?

[Christopher] Let me say that it seems to me that the steps that have been taken here in Jordan toward democratic values and political participation will have a profound influence all over the world, and particularly in the United States. It is the kind of a step forward that makes the people in the United States, the people in our

Congress, have a favorable reaction for Jordan, and I think that that will be an important aspect of the reputation of Jordan within the United States. But that being said, let me say that it seems to me those steps are intrinsically important for their own value, for what they do for the country itself to enable all the people of Jordan to participate as Jordanian citizens in the government of their country, and that far outruns any effect that it might have in so distant a place as the United States. But, I would say in the United States it will have a very positive step on the attitudes within our Congress and within our country.

[Reporter] Jordan has had its economic and military aid suspended for sometime now. Do you have any intentions of putting it to the Congress, that in fact the blocking of the $30 million should be released, and that the money should be allowed to come forward to Jordan?

[Christopher] We intend to be consulting with the Congress on that issue in the near future, based upon all the developments that have taken place in the region.

[Reporter] Were you carrying an invitation from President Clinton to King Husayn to visit Washington?

[Christopher] I brought a message from President Clinton to King Husayn. The content of those messages between heads of state or heads of government is confidential and I think I will leave it at that point.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the expellee problem as the obstacle for the resumption of the peace process, as if it is the only obstacle. Is it the only obstacle for the resumption of the peace process, or are there any other obstacles and what are they?

[Husayn] Well, I think that, if you don't mind, there have been many questions fired at us from this and that direction, and if I may sum up a little bit, or I [words indistinct] in terms of an answer.

First of all, as far as democratization in Jordan is concerned as is our chosen path, democracy in respect for human rights, of their participation in the shaping of the future by all Jordanians equally everywhere, and I would like to suggest here that we have chosen this path because we believe in it and will do everything we can to enhance it, to see it grow on the soldest of foundations regarding the future. I hope that we can influence others to view Jordan as an example of what could be done, and that this is very, very important and vital for the stability and harmony and continuity and complementarity that must take place in this entire region in the future. So, I hope that our friends in the United States will view this positively and I know that they will, but in regard to your question, it is not something that is reason for us to seek help, except the support that we expect from our friends toward something that they believe in and we believe in. It is not something that we can put a price on. It is something that is in our hearts, and in our souls, and in our minds, and something that we have worked for and something we believe in and it is something, I hope, we will be remembered by long after we are gone as it continues to last beyond this period of time, way into the future.

So, this is one aspect of it. The other, the question of obstacles and nonobstacles, of course, and there are challenges. But I would like to suggest here that we knew from the outset that the road was going to be a very difficult one, and that there are extremists on either side of the divide that might wish for the whole attempt to fail. If we succeed, we would have given it our best effort and we would have reason and cause to be proud of that. And a solution is a just solution, that addresses the rights of Palestinians on their legitimate soil, that addresses the rights of all to live in peace and security in this region—242, 338—which is essentially to the implementation of 242, in terms of the dialogue which is ongoing, [sentence as heard] And we have in addition to that now a commitment or wish by the United States to be a full partner in the process, together with people of goodwill throughout the world.

So, this is our responsibility. Look at it that way. Yes we have many difficulties and many obstacles. But, on the other hand, what is the alternative except disaster in this entire region? One encouraging element, I believe, is, I hope, a growing realization by all parties concerned on either side of the divide that this is a chance and it must be taken. And so, hopefully the obstacles will be removed from our path.

[Reporter] Mr. Secretary, [words indistinct] the Palestinians are willing to accept a phased return of the deportees. Do you see that solution feasible, Mr. Secretary?

[Christopher] Well, if they were to accept a phased return of the deportees, in terms of the five-point agreement reached with the Israelis, that would certainly be a positive sign. One aspect of that agreement that really is not then, I think, adequately appreciated is the process under which the Israelis will be themselves evaluating the deportees, reviewing them one by one, and that could result in phased withdrawal, sorry, phased return of significant numbers in the next period of time, and that certainly could have a positive effect. But, I don't want to try to predict the attitudes of the parties. We are in this role as sponsor- facilitator and the parties themselves will have to agree to return. I hope they will agree to return and not allow these side issues to deter us from the important work of the negotiations themselves.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, I was just going to ask you a question on that same point. As we understand the Egyptians are suggesting that this process of review be accelerated. This is one way perhaps to resolve this controversy over the deportations. Do you subscribe to that approach, and do you have any ideas of your own, any proposals of your own to break this impasse?

[Husayn] I think, sir, that the visit and the talks we have had have given us an opportunity to discuss every aspect of the problem, where we are, what ground have we covered so far, what remains ahead. And, obviously, this

is, as I have said, an obstacle and a problem. And, I hope it will be resolved. I would not like to get into any further detail. You know our views in that regard. I would like to tell you, sir, that we are very proud and happy to see you with us, that Jordanians will also continue with their heads held high, determined to do their best for a better future for this region, with total commitment to the cause of a just and durable peace that future generations can accept and live with, with pride in our friendship and a determination to be as working closely together as partners in the times ahead.

[Christopher] Thank you again for the honor of receiving me and my delegation.

Abu-Jabir Briefs House

JN2202084393 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Address by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir at the House of Representatives in Amman on 21 February—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the meriful, the compassionate; may God's peace and blessings be upon you; Mr. Speaker; esteemed House members:

Although I know a special session will be held to discuss foreign policy on a date to be set by your esteemed House, I believe that it is my duty to communicate to you the outcome of the talks that were held between us and the U.S. secretary of state during his visit to us over the past two days.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed members: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher visited Jordan as part of his current tour of the region. The discussions that were held with him focused on the peace process, the situation in the region, and bilateral relations. His majesty reaffirmed the Jordanian constants, particularly on the need to reach a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the principle of the exchange of land for peace, and enabling the Palestinian people to determine their fate on their national soil. His majesty affirmed that the Palestinian cause is the basic issue in the region and that if it is not settled in a just manner, the region will not witness stability and will face a tragic fate. His majesty also referred to the issue of the 400 Palestinian deportees and the fact that it constitutes a principal obstacle on the road to the peace process and that it should be settled through the repatriation of all the deportees and the return of other deportees. His majesty also referred to the escalation of the Israeli repressive measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the victims which fall daily as a result of this. His majesty also explained the nature of the participation by Jordan and the Palestinian people in the peace process within a joint delegation whereby Jordan has provided an umbrella for the joint delegation to enable the Palestinian people to run their own affairs.

His majesty also affirmed that without a serious approach to the Palestinian dimension, it will not be possible to attain any progress.

With respect to Iraq, there was emphasis on the Jordanian stand toward Iraq's independence and territorial integrity and on the fact that Iraq's independence and territorial integrity constitute a basic and vital factor for security and stability in the region and that the Iraqi people's tribulation should be ended. His majesty warned against the serious and tragic results on the entire region that may result from any measures that will harm Iraq's unity and sovereignty. His majesty also emphasized the gravity of the threat facing the region as a result of mass destruction weapons and emphasized the need for Israel to sign the nuclear nonproliferation agreement, warning against the deployment of these weapons, particularly in light of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the attempts by many countries to obtain nuclear expertise and technology.

The Jordanian side explained the impact on the Jordanian economy as a result of the UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq and the search measures against vessels bound for al-'Aqabah. His majesty affirmed Jordan's eagerness to safeguard the democratic experience and political pluralism, as well as liberties and human rights. He said he hopes the United States will reconcile its potentials and policies with the principles and values it upholds.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed members: For his part, the U.S. secretary of state affirmed the new U.S. Administration's commitment to push the peace process forward and abide by UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, since they are the basis of this process. He said that the U.S. Administration has decided to act as a full partner in the peace process to help attain tangible success. He also emphasized the importance the U.S. Administration pins on the resumption of the negotiations so that it may be able to assume such a role. The U.S. secretary of state explained the U.S. viewpoint on the deportees issue by saying that in addition to the repatriation of the declared number of deportees, the settlement reached between the United States and Israel guarantees the reduction of the deportation terms by half and a case by case study of each deportee without any need for the deportees to submit requests for this. He said he expects that a large number of the deportees would return within a short period of time.

The secretary of state said that the United States opposes deportation and that the deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories is a fresh indication that the current situation cannot last and that there is a need to exert all efforts to expedite the attainment of a solution. He said that the present opportunity to achieve peace and end the Palestinian people's tribulation should not be squandered. The U.S. secretary of state called for focusing efforts to render the negotiations a success and to remain committed to the bases on which the peace

process was established, bases which the concerned parties had accepted. He also called for seeking ways to overcome the obstacle created by the deportation issue to enable the resumption of the peace process and to focus attention on essential matters on all tracks. He also said that this year should be a year to achieve progress rather than a year of immobility.

With respect to Iraq, the U.S. secretary of state affirmed that Washington has no intention to harm Iraq's unity. He said there is no U.S. dispute with the Iraqi people. He emphasized the U.S. Administration's commitment to the full implemention of the UN Security Council resolutions, pointing out that the U.S. Administration does not view the dispute with Iraq from a personal angle.

The U.S. secretary of state praised the Jordanian democratic experience, affirming Jordan's importance and role.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed members: I would like to inform you that we held a series of contacts with the concerned Arab parties, particularly with Syria and the Palestinian brothers, before the U.S. secretary of state's visit. Yasir 'Arafat visited the Kingdom on 18 February and held talks with his majesty the king on the need to reach a solution to the deportees issue that will guarantee the possibility of resuming the peace process. I visited Damascus last week and held talks with the Syrian president and his deputy and with the foreign minister, as well. These talks also focused on the issue of the deportees and its impact on the peace process. We hope the stands of the Syrian and Palestinian brothers will be identical to our stand during the U.S. secretary of state's visit, particularly on the need to find a satisfactory solution to the issue of the deportees and the pressure that should be brought to bear against the escalation of the Israeli repression and regarding the reaffirmation of the new U.S. Administration's commitment to the bases of the peace process, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338 for the attainment of a comprehensive and just settlement of the Middle East crisis.

May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Parties Issues Statement

JN2102115793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Following an initiative by Mijhim al-Khurayshah, secretary general of the Jordanian National Alliance Party, a number of Jordanian parties have issued a statement on the occasion of the U.S. secretary of state's visit to Jordan. Following is the text of the statement:

Mr. Warren Christopher, esteemed U.S. secretary of state,

We expected the new U.S. Administration to be fairer and less hostile toward our Arab nation. We hoped that it would be committed to international legitimacy, away from double standard in its dealings with UN resolutions and human rights problems.

What we have seen so far, however, is merely a continuation of the hostile attitude toward our Arab nation and the adoption of two yardsticks regarding the enforcement of international resolutions. Also, we have not seen anything but hegemony over the United Nations, giving precedence to Israel's interests, and adopting a selective approach toward the implementation of UN resolutions in the interest of Israel, thus ignoring the concerns and causes of the Arabs and the Palestinians in particular.

Therefore, the parties signing this statement ask you to convey to President Clinton the opinions of the Jordanian people in particular and the Arab people in general and our collective demands. In this regard, we believe that the principles of right and justice require the following:

1. The lifting of all forms of the iniquitous blockades imposed on Iraq and Libya.

2. The implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799 and allowing the Palestinian deportees to return home, away from attempts to circumvent this resolution by your administration.

3. The implementation of all UN resolutions concerning the occupied Arab territories.

We hope that in its treatment of Arab issues, the new U.S. Administration will respond to the call for avoiding double standards and selectivity.

The statement was signed by representatives of the following parties:

—The Jordanian National Alliance Party;

—The Islamic Action Front;

—The Jordanian Communist Party;

—The Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party;

—The Jordanian Democratic Pan-Arab Party;

—The Awakening Party;

—Hashd [The Jordanian People's Democratic Party];

—The Popular Union Party;

—Freedom Party;

—The Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; and

—The Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party.

Press Comment

JN2102173293

[Editorial Report] All Jordanian dailies on 20 and 21 February give extensive coverage to U.S. Secretary of

State Warren Christopher's visit to Amman and his talks with Jordan's King Husasyn.

The three main Arabic dailies AL-RA'Y, AL-DUSTUR, and SAWT AL-SHA'B carry on their front pages a 20 February PETRA datelined reports on Christopher's arrival and statements he and Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir made on his arrival.

AL-RA'Y reports on event under the following banner headlines: "Christopher: Washington Is Ready To Be a Full Partner in the Attainment of Peace; An Egyptian Proposal To Schedule the Repatriation of the Deportees in Three Stages; Palestinian Allusion to Accepting a Settlement, and Israel Could Return Additional Numbers." AL-DUSTUR carries the following headlines: "Christopher Affirms Washington' s Readiness for a Full Partnership in the Attainment of Peace; We Value His Majesty King Husayn's Abidance by Democractic Values and Popular Political Participation." SAWT AL-SHA'B reports on his arrival runs under the following headlines: "Christopher Affirms Washington's Commitment to Reactivate the Peace Process."

The three dailies continue in their 21 February issues to give extensive frontpage coverage to Christopher's Amman visit, his talks with King Husayn and the news conference they held at the end of these talks. SAWT AL-SHA'B headlines are as follows: "King Husayn Affirms Jordan's Full Commitment to Just and Lasting Peace; A Just Solution Is That Which Tackles Palestinian Rights on Their Legitimate Soil and the Right of All To Live in Peace and Security;" and "Christopher Reiterates Washington's Commitment To Implement Resolutions 242 and 338; There Is No Country as Important as Jordan in the Peace Process." AL-DUSTUR publishes a report on news conference under the following headlines: "King Husayn: The Challenges Are Big and Failure Is Destructive to the Entire Region; We Expect the U.S. Partner To Fully Assume Its Role and To Remove the Obstacle of the Deportees From the Path of the Negotiations." As for AL-RA'Y, it carries the following banner headlines: "King Husayn Emphasizes Need To Pursue Efforts To Settle Deportees' Case; We Will Work To Secure That Circumstances for the Resumption of Negotiations Be Propitious", and "Christopher Renews Washington's Commitment to the Implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338."

The editorials of all three dailies on 20 and 21 February are devoted to Christopher's visit and to U.S. policy in region. In its 20 February editorial, AL-RA'Y affirms that Christopher's talks with King Husayn "are another opportunity for the U.S. official to have Jordan reconfirm that only a just peace is the guarantee to us and to the entire region that we will proceed toward what is good, and toward security." After affirming that the "Arabs feelings of humiliation and injustice" in wake of the "aggression against Iraq" have increased with the stand on the deportees, the paper says "the talk about international legitimacy, human rights, and the new world order will not interest anyone if not coupled with effective action and practical behavior confirming that the United States really wishes to have the peace process bear just results and not to just stand idly by and watch Israel's recklessness."

The AL-DUSTUR 20 February editorial, after explaining that Israel is the one that hinders the peace process, says: "We welcome the U.S. commitment to the peace process and hope that Washington will assume the role it is supposed to play, that of a full partner in this process" because it is "the party that can more than any other impose the principles of justice, and the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the party that can bring pressure to bear on Israel." The SAWT AL-SHA'B editorial, calls on Christopher to first solve the deportees issue. The paper says "if Christopher does not seek to solve the issue of the deportees by implementing UN Security Council Resolution 799, the confidence of the Arab cordon states in a U.S. role in the peace process based on Resolutions 242 and 338 will be shaken."

Several inside columns in the three dailies also comment on Chrtistopher's tour of region. The gist of these columns is that if the United States does not adopt a balanced and fair policy in the Middle East, no real and just peace can be achieved in region for years to come. In his column in AL-RA'Y, 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Umar says "the settlement of the Palestinian cause is the real key to the settlement of all the problems of the region which are related to it, starting with the the siege imposed on Iraq and its results. Had it not been for the Palestinian problem, Iraq's armament would not have created any sensitivities for any party, and Iraq would not have entered into a quarrel with the Arab countries which are riding on the U.S. bandwagon and which expelled the Palestinians working in these countries." In another article, also in AL-RA'Y, Mahmud al-Rimawi says that past events have shown "that Washington cannot adopt the role of a neutral observer, and that it should assume one of two roles; either directly participate in the catastrophes and close all the doors to hope and open the door to all forms and types of terrorism and extremism, or effectively uphold the issue of peace and justice and force all the parties toward a serious and ambitious settlement that would fulfill the rights and interests of all." In an article also in AL-RA'Y, Dr. Salah Jarrar says: "There is no doubt that the country whose foreign policy seeks to protect the Zionist entity, realizes the bitterness we feel toward such a situation. That's why we see it resort to the old policy of fooling and laughing at the Arabs by sending an envoy on a fact-finding mission." The article goes on to say: "If we have no other choice but to receive the new envoy, let us say to him: The Americans know the details and the facts. We ask for ending the tribulation of our kinfolk in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Marj al-Zuhur, Iraq, and Lebanon."

Salamah al-'Ukur in a column in SAWT AL-SHA'B on 20 February says: "From the time President Clinton stepped into the White House, there were no signs in U.S. foreign policy that the new U.S. Administration is really serious about the attainment of a just peace that is

based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. The signs so far noted do not only imply that it is biased toward Israel but encourage Israel to defy the resolutions of international legitimacy."

In an article in AL-DUSTUR of 20 February Muhammad Ka'wash wonders how Arabs can expect fair treatment from an administration that got "85 percent of the Jewish vote." He wonders: "How can such an administration fairly treat the Arabs?"

In his "Stand" column on page 25 of the AL- DUSTUR 21 February issue, entitled "Change Inside and Outside," Muhammad Ka'wash says: "It is good that the U.S. secretary of state, during his tour of the region, hears from all Arabs that the Arabs would be very happy to see the deportees returned to their homeland, and that their return would pave the way for the peace negotiations in Washington. It is also good that during his tour of the region Christopher hears from some Arabs in some capitals that the continuation of the blockade against Iraq and the Iraqi people will keep the region tense, and that the continued blackmail of Iraq will never lead to tranquillity, amity, or peace, especially since Washington has planted a time bomb; namely the demarcation of the new border between Iraq and Kuwait, which would explode at any time because it is an attempt to fragment Iraq, which was not only rejected by the ruler, but also by the people."

Ka'wash adds: "If Washington, which is currently leading the East and the West, wants to see the region from a different perspective and seeks to create a change and save the Middle East from a state of tension and successive wars, then it should play the role of mediator, and not be a party to the conflict. Therefore, it should resolve the deportees problem and the issue of Israeli terrorism and violence in the occupied territories before settling the Arab-Israeli conflict. The United States should also ease tension in the region by lifting the blockade against Iraq. Washington and the West should also deal with the democratic states in a way to encourage this approach in the third world instead of supporting corrupt regimes. If the U.S. Administration seeks to create a change in America, a slogan that brought Clinton to the White House, then this slogan should also affect U.S. foreign policy. Isn't it so?"

In the "Orbits" column on pages 20 and 17 of the 21 February issue of SAWT AL-SHA'B, 'Arafat Hijazi says under the headline "The U.S. Secretary of State's Visit; Who Is Pressuring Whom?": "It is clear that the peace negotiations are experiencing a crisis, that the cause of this crisis is Israel, and that the one who encourages the continuation of this crisis is the United States which announced that it will support the Israeli measures, turn its shoulder to international legitimacy and UN Security Council Resolution 799, and that it will help Israel implement its decisions no matter how serious they are and regardless of its defiance of the Palestinians, the Arabs, and the international community." He adds: "We would like Secretary Christopher to know that every Arab knows that neither the Arabs nor the Palestinians have any interest in negotiations with Israel, that all the Arab parties were forced to join them, and that the only party which has an interest in these negotiations is Israel, which former U.S. President George Bush begged to give him its Jewish votes when he met with the leaders of the Jewish community and told them that he has given Israel more than any other U.S. president in the history of the United States has given it when he forced the Arabs to sit with it at the same table."

In an article on page 18 of the same paper under the headline "Christopher's Tour and the Israeli Rejection," Shafiq 'Ubaydat says: "We can only tell the visiting U.S. secretary of state that we do not have any intention to change, and that our stands toward the peace process are still firm. However, Israel is the one that obstructed the peace process, Israel is the one that rejects peace, Israel itself is the one that violates all the international norms and charters and the principles of human rights, Israel is the one that occupies Arab land, and Israel is the aggressor."

In the "Just an Opinion" column on page 18 in the 21 February issue of AL-RA'Y, and under the headline "From Madrid to Marj al-Zuhur," Khalid Mahadin says: "In order to force the Iraqis out of Kuwait, the United States massed military forces from 33 states, and announced that there was no alternative to using these forces against the Iraqis other than the full, immediate, and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait." Mahadin then discusses the "U.S. double standards" in dealing with the Palestinian deportees issue and in its bias toward Israel.

Concluding his article, he says: "We welcome Mr. Christopher and wish him success in his mission. This is the most that we can do. This is because securing this success can be achieved through U.S. pressure on Israel, not to force it to only accept Resolution 799, but also to accept all the resolutions of international legitimacy. We mean the legitimacy at whose doors and with whose hands the Iraqi people are still being slaughtered."

Christopher, Delegation Arrive in Beirut

NC2202153793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher finally arrived at the Defense Ministry in al-Yarzah at 1700 today, and the Lebanese Government expressed relief. Three U.S. helicopters landed in al-Yarzah, dropping colored smoke bombs for camouflage. A strict security cordon was set up around the area.

Christopher has informed Israel that he will be a few hours late arriving there because of his visit to Lebanon.

According to new information on Christopher's arrival at the Defense Ministry, three helicopters landed in the ministry's courtyard. Christopher, Edward Djerejian, head of Middle Eastern affairs at the State Department, and the accompanying U.S. delegation deplaned. The U.S. secretary of state was welcomed by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese negotiating team.

Buwayz on Christopher Tour, Prospects for Peace

NC1902185393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] In a radio statement, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said the Israeli attacks against southern Lebanon on the eve of the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the region would adversely affect the peace process. He said the Israeli escalation is primarily directed against Christopher's visit, with Israel apparently trying to create new facts to bargain with the Americans.

Buwayz said the United States plays a basic role in the peace process. When we—as Arabs—participated in the [Madrid] conference we did not bet on Israel's intentions or willingness to achieve peace. Rather, we bet on American promises, commitments, and principles suggesting that the peace process would be pushed ahead.

The foreign minister added: At some point, the negotiations stopped because of Israeli maneuvers regarding elections in Israel and the United States. Now, the new U.S. Administration needs to give the Arabs the assurances and commitments that constitute the bases of the peace conference. Buwayz said Arab participation or nonparticipation in the next rounds of talks depends on the U.S. role and its seriousness in ensuring the success of the talks. So far, he said, the role of the new U.S. Administration has been vague.

Asked about Christopher's possible failure to give such assurances and solve the deportees problem, the foreign minister said the new U.S. secretary is not required to adopt new positions, but to explain and underline the principles on which the peace conference was launched. He pointed out that the resumption of the negotiations is linked to many factors, including U.S. clarifications on its position, and a unified Arab stand. A unified Arab position, he said, guarantees success in attaining Arab rights. Among the indirect factors that affect the situation, Buwayz noted Israel's continued intransigence over the deportees, the escalation in the south, and negative Israeli statements made from time to time.

Asked about the U.S. threat that the United States will turn its attention to issues other than the Middle East, as a kind of protest on the parties' sluggishness and reluctance, Minister Buwayz said we hope this is directed at Israel, not the Arabs. The Arabs, he added, are demanding their rights, and Israel must give them back.

Al-Rantisi Sees Positive Moves by Arab States

NC2002142893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Deportees spokesman 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi has said that there are positive moves by Arab states toward resolving the deportees question. During a news conference he held today at Marj al-Zuhur camp, al-Rantisi said: We have learned that the Arab countries, in their talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, are treating the deportees issue as a top priority and consider it crucial to starting the negotiations. He added: Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's stand is positive and conducive toward resolving the deportees question in accordance with UN Resolution 799. He added: We have great confidence in Syria's considerable weight at the Arab and Islamic levels, and as such, great hopes are pinned on it regarding the deportees issue. Therefore, he added, the Palestinians and Arabs have high hopes that Syria will press Christopher to resolve the deportees problem. He added: Syria will not betray the hopes of the Arab and Palestinian peoples.

Asked about Israel's announcement of a possible increase in the number of deportees to be returned home, al-Rantisi said: Israel wants to uphold the expulsion order as a lawful decision and is trying hard to trick us into accepting the legitimacy of expulsion. Accepting Israel's goodwill and its appeal panels, he added, means we acknowledge the legitimacy of the expulsion. He stressed that the deportees will accept nothing short of the implementation of Resolution 799 and their collective return, in line with the spirit of the resolution and the oath they took upon themselves.

Asked about separating the deportees issue from the peace talks, al-Rantisi said: We have determined our position right from the start with full independence and regardless of the issue of the talks. He added: We leave this matter to the negotiating Arab states.

He concluded his statement by saying that the Security Council and the United Nations are required to exhume and revive their credibility from the grave in which it has been buried.

Opposes Peace Talks

NC2102135793 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, official spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, reiterated his backing for the positions adopted by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. He stressed his determination that UN Security Council Resolution 799 must be fully, not partially, implemented.

At a news conference this morning, al-Rantisi said he welcomes any international official who wishes to visit the deportees' camp to view the tragedy provoked by the Zionist entity. Al-Rantisi said that some parties are seeking to help this entity save face and declared: I wish to stress that our lives are more important than allowing this entity to save face.

In an answer to a reporter's question, al-Rantisi said the peace negotiations do not help the Palestinian people's cause. He announced: We demand that these negotiations be boycotted even if the deportees are allowed to return.

Al-Rantisi criticized the PLO's position on the issue because it is ambiguous. He said current proposals on the deportees' return are not harmonious with Resolution 799, adding: We will accept only what is harmonious with the pledge we have made.

Deportees Accuse Christopher of Ignoring Them

NC2102175993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] In Marj al-Zuhur the Palestinian deportees today accused U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher of ignoring them during his Middle East tour, saying that their cause will not die until they are allowed to return to their country.

They added that they want Christopher to visit their camp, which lies in a buffer zone in southern Lebanon opposite the snow-covered Mount Hermon and the border with Syria, the country where he held talks today.

Deportee spokesman 'Aziz Duwayk told reporters: We would have felt very happy if Mr. Christopher had come here. We welcome everyone, but we know perfectly well that the victims are not on Christopher's mind. We will stay here. We came together and we want to return together. We have decided that either all of us return or none will return.

'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, one of the most prominent of the 396 deportees who have been caught between the Lebanese and Israeli lines for the past nine weeks, said: I am not optimistic that he who supports the Zionist entity in an unjust issue will do anything.

The deportees announced that they still support the Lebanese Government's decision to prevent anyone, except reporters, from reaching their camp via territory under Lebanese Government control.

Islamic Jihad Deportee Spokesman Rejects Mubarak Proposal

NC2202085393 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, the spokesman for the deportees who belong to Islamic Jihad, said it is regrettable that the talks between Arab leaders and (?Warren Christopher) are concentrating on the negotiations and forgetting the deportees, who will accept nothing less than the full implementation of Resolution 799. He added that the deportees cannot accept any attempt to circumvent this resolution. He rejected Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's proposal that two-thirds of the deportees be allowed to return immediately and the remaining one-third return next April.

Shaykh al-Shami called on the Arab regimes to realize the danger of the deportee issue and its effects on the political reality, emphasizing that it must be raised at the negotiating table.

Fadlallah Warns U.S. Wants To 'Reshape' Region

NC2102080193 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that the region is at the threshold of a very difficult phase. He added that certain forces do not want the Arab world to be able to defend itself. Fadlallah said that the United States wants to reshape the area and establish Israel as its policeman in the region. The United States has chosen Israel for that role and wants it to be the strongest country in the region, he said. Fadlallah said that despite a UN Security Council resolution to this effect, the United States is not pressing Israel to take back the 400 Palestinian deportees. He added: Is it likely, then, that the United States will press the Zionists to allow 2,000,000 Palestinians to return home in the near future? Fadlallah pointed out that the enemy wants to achieve its own objectives through negotiations. He added that even though the resistance may not be able to expel the enemy, it can halt its advance and hinder its control over our people.

Paper Views Clinton 'Absence' From Foreign Policy Scene

NC2202133993 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 15 Feb 93 p 15

[Commentary by Sati' Nur-al-Din: "Where is Clinton?"]

[Text] While U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was announcing last week the Washington plan to resolve the situation in Bosnia, an American journalist asked about President Clinton. He was told that he was on his way to Detroit to deal with a domestic affair in Chicago. [sentence as published]

Clinton's absence from the White House at that time—indeed, the fact that he did not personally announce the plan regardless of its contents—was strange and surprising. It is also indicative of what the new President's style will be like in American policies.

The conclusion the American press has reached is that Clinton seems to have decided to entrust foreign policy to his secretaries, advisers, and aides so he is free to deal with domestic affairs personally. This goes along with his election program, ideas, and qualifications.

The remark on how the American plan on Bosnia was announced is not just superficial because Washington itself surrounded the plan with a halo of extraordinary importance. It also deliberately made the world hold its breath awaiting the word affecting the fate of the plan of international envoys Cyrus Vance and David Owen, not to mention the fate of the whole Balkan region.

The plan may in its essence be more modest than the promises of direct military intervention that Clinton made during his election campaign, but it is quite a change from George Bush's hesitation on an issue to which the Democrats give top priority.

However, by his absence, Clinton chose to distance himself from the worries of foreign policy. Considering that the problem in Bosnia-Hercegovina has a high profile, so to speak, compared with the problems in the Gulf, the Arab-Israeli negotiations, and Somalia, this may signal a change in the status of these problems, all of which have been and remain reliant on U.S. policy.

If last week's events are a measure of Clinton's style, it follows logically that the Gulf countries will once again mourn their loss of George Bush. This does not apply to Iraq, however, which will find Clinton's four years in office a breathing space and possibly a chance to emerge from the crisis.

Arab negotiators will share the feeling of desolation felt by their Gulf brothers, considering that negotiations with Israel were based more on Bush's personal commitments and pledges than on letters of guarantees and assurances.

Probably more important than Clinton's absence from the foreign policy scene is whether the U.S. Administration will leave foreign policy matters to experts, advisers, and secretaries at home or regional powers abroad. The latter prospect, yet unnoticed by those who see the current U.S. President as an improvement on his predecessor, may be a sad one, considering that the number of Israeli massacres in occupied Arab territories has doubled since 20 January.

Hizballah Conducts Military Exercise in Northeast

TA2202064093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Hizballah has carried out the first military exercise of its kind in northeast Lebanon, near the Syrian border. For five hours, approximately 300 fighters practiced storming fortified positions with the aid of rockets, artillery, and mortars. Correspondent Yo'av Aviv has learned that Hizballah has 1,000 armed fighters. They have received large quantities of weapons from Iran, including upgraded Katyushas, known as Grad missiles. Iran has also transferred tens of millions of dollars to Hizballah. Several months ago, Hizballah was reinforced by Iranian Revolutionary Guards who were sent from their training camps in Sudan. Iranian President Rafsanjani recently ordered several hundred more fighters dispatched from these camps to help Hizballah in south Lebanon.

Fatah Official 'Ala'-al-Din Killed in Sidon Camp

NC2202124493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] It transpired that the shooting heard in the 'Ayn al- Hulwah camp in Sidon last night led to the death of Fatah official Fadi Ahmad 'Ala'-al-Din.

Paper Lists Foreign Loans Granted for Reconstruction

NC2102131593 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 9 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by Charles Bakhus al-Fighali from Paris]

[Text] Foreign loans granted for the reconstruction of Lebanon are as follows:

1. The EC: $240 million.

2. Italy: $460 million.

3. France: $14 million.

4. Germany: $10 million.

5. The Kuwaiti Development Fund: $150 million.

6. The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development: $55 million.

7. The World Bank: $125 million.

8. Saudi Arabia: $60 million.

9. Belgium: $500,000. 10. The United States: $26 million. 11. The Arab Fund for Agricultural Development: $5 million 12. The Islamic Development Bank: $10 million. 13. The OPEC Fund for International Development: $5 million.

Christopher Arrives, Welcomed by al-Shar'

JN2002193293 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1735 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Damascus, 20 Feb (SANA)—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his wife arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Christopher was received on arrival at the airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his wife, ranking Foreign Ministry officials, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus accompanied by embassy staff.

In a statement to reporters at the airport, Mr. Christopher said: I am very happy to be in this great city, Damascus, and I look forward to meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to discuss the Middle East peace process and a number of bilateral and regional issues.

Secretary Christopher added: I have come to Damascus to personally convey the strong commitment of U.S. President Bill Clinton to work as a full partner in a bid to activate and advance the peace talks anew, to encourage the parties in the region to resume the talks, and to emphasize that the talks will bear good fruit.

Mr. Christopher said: The United States will remain determined to help the parties reach a just and comprehensive peaceful solution based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

The U.S. secretary of state said that the United States is prepared to play its role as one of the sponsors of these bilateral talks, provided that the other parties play their roles as well.

Mr. Christopher added: We look forward to working with the parties concerned with the peace process to entrench their commitments to meaningful talks and to be able to realize progress in an appropriate manner.

Secretary Christopher said: In the recent years, the United States and Syria worked together to advance the peace process and regional security, and we expect that this cooperation will continue and we look forward to it.

He pointed out: Syria's consent to attend the Madrid conference was the basis upon which that conference was held, and we are happy that Syria joined the international alliance to end Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Christopher said: Syria and Israel have engaged in substantial talks within the framework of the peace process, and we are looking forward to the continuation of this progress.

The U.S. secretary added: I repeat that I am looking forward to meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad and the foreign minister tomorrow, and I, my wife, and my accompanying delegation thank Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' for welcoming us.

Answering a question about whether or not he is carrying specific proposals regarding the Palestinian deportees, Mr. Christopher said: I came here to listen and assess the interests of the parties concerned with the peace process, and to know where the peace talks stand in their points of view. I do not have any specific proposals other than what is already on the negotiating table. We hope to renew the dialogue, and to start the peace talks anew at an early date.

On the Syrian side, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' welcomed U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his wife in Damascus. In a statement to reporters, al-Shar' expressed hope that Secretary Christopher's talks with President Hafiz al-Asad will be positive and constructive, and will help implement UN resolutions.

Al-Shar' said: Syria and the United States, and the other parties concerned with the peace process, hope to be able to realize a just and comprehensive peace in the region, and to eliminate the obstacles facing it since the deportee issue still represents an obstacle.

Al-Shar' added: We hope that all the deportees will return to their homeland so that the parties concerned will be able to resume the bilateral talks as soon as possible.

Received by al-Asad

JN2102113693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secrtary of State Warren Christopher at 1215 today. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian, and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross.

Further on Meeting

JN2102185493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1810 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Damascus, 21 Feb (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at 1215 today. [passage omitted]

Warren Christopher conveyed a message to President al-Asad from U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The talks dealt with the Middle East peace process, the Palestinian deportees issue, and the securing of an appropriate atmosphere for the resumption of the peace talks. The talks also dealt with bilateral and regional issues.

Mr. Christopher stressed the Clinton administration's concern about the situation in the region, and its determination to play an effective and active role in the peace process as a partner in the talks. He said that the United States would propose some ideas.

Christopher noted the importance of Syria and its role in the peace process. He hoped that this role would continue.

The president stressed Syria's concern for the peace process in accordance with the bases set for it, and which are agreed upon. He also stressed the need to remove obstacles to this process, particularly the obstacle represented by the Palestinian deportees issue.

The two sides agreed to continue contacts.

Al-Shar', Christopher Hold Talks

JN2102171293 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Damascus, 21 Feb (SANA)—The Syrian side, headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the U.S. side, headed by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, held a session of talks at the Foreign Ministry building today.

Discussion dealt with the peace process, the issue of deportees, and bilateral relations.

Al-Shar', Christopher News Conference

JN2102200293 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1835 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Announcer-read report on a joint news conference by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Damascus on 21 February]

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher this evening held a joint news conference for Arab and foreign journalists and representatives of television networks, along with the media team accompanying Mr. Christopher. Following is the full recording [as heard] of the news conference.

Al-Shar' opened the news conference by characterizing the talks Mr. Christopher had with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad as very positive and constructive. Al-Shar' said the two sides brought up the peace process, when and how to reconvene it, and the barriers to restarting the peace talks, above all the deportees issue. Issues of bilateral interest were also discussed, as was the general state of affairs in the region. Al-Shar' said: I will let the U.S. secretary himself tell you about his talks with President al-Asad.

Mr. Christopher began by saying: As Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' said, we had good and constructive talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and before that with the foreign minister. We talked about a wide range of issues, and had a frank exchange of views about issues of bilateral and regional interest. Our discussions centered on a revival of the peace process. Syria, Christopher added, has played and continues to play a central part in the peace process. If this process is to succeed, Syria must continue to play this role. We have indicated a desire for an early resumption of the talks and the urgency for these talks to make headway, Christopher said. I have communicated to President al-Asad President Clinton's commitment to a full partnership role of the United States in the negotiating process. Therefore, all the parties, added Christopher, must return to the negotiating table without delay. President Hafiz al-Asad has declared Syria's commitment to the peace process that kicked off in Madrid, and he welcomed the full partnership role of the United States in the peace process. President al-Asad has agreed to an early resumption of the talks, the U.S. secretary added. Mr. Christopher said that his discussions with President Hafiz al-Asad were useful in that they helped him gain a prior understanding and make an assessment of the key issues the talks will address.

Christopher said: Frankly, I can say that the issues we discussed were encouraging to me. From here, I will go to Saudi Arabia tonight to continue my discussions on the peace process. Again, we will deal with regional and bilateral issues. I look forward to the continuation of contacts with President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. We will all try to activate the peace process.

Asked whether the United States will put pressure on Israel to repatriate the Palestinian deportees to their homeland in order to resume the peace talks, Christopher said: We will play the role of a full partner through working actively and keenly, and through meeting with the parties, as I am doing now by this tour of the region.

He said: We are one of the co-sponsors of the conference, though we are not a party, but I believe that this enables us to play the role of a supportive and honest broker, and we intend to play this role. Christopher added: I think it is a mistake to speak about playing the role of an honest broker and putting pressure on any party.

Christopher added: We will try to facilitate the talks and make sure that the parties have a full chance to tackle the issue. We may present some ideas. That, I think, is the role that we can effectively play, and we intend to be more active than the United States has been in the past.

Asked if the viewpoints of the parties should become closer on an agreement before the United States can interfere and present its proposals, and if Christopher thinks that the United States will present its ideas at some stage before the parties reach agreement, Christopher said: What will happen is, first of all, the parties agree to return to the negotiating table. When they do so, I think you will see that the United States will have a very active role. From what happened in the past in a number of cases, it is clear that when the views of the parties become closer, assistance can be provided by an outside party. Out of my discussions—of course I am in the middle of my tour—I feel that there is room for a constructive role that the broker can play in this stage.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', answering a question on the possibility of returning to the negotiating table before the repatriation of the deportees, said: When we say that we want the peace talks to resume and the Palestinian deportees to be repatriated, we mean the implementation of the Security Council's resolutions, which are supported by the entire international community. We avoid every contradiction between these resolutions because we maintain the same trends as the international community and we have the same desire as the UN Security Council.

The international community wants the resumption of the peace process; there is no doubt at all about that. At the same time, the international community wants the repatriation of all the deportees to their homes, and no one supports leaving the deportees outside the occupied territories, because they must return to their homeland and their families to end this human tragedy.

Al-Shar' continued: Here, and from this viewpoint, we have presented some proposals to Mr. Christopher to find a solution to the repatriation of all the deportees, and Mr. Christopher promised to consider them.

Asked about Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's proposal to draw up a timetable for the return of the deportees within the framework of an Israeli-American agreement and whether, if this happens, Syria will urge the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table and whether he can explain some of the proposals, al-Shar' said: We do not want to elaborate on this issue. I will leave the answer to Mr. Christopher. He added: Our view is very clear. We want all the deportees to return to their homeland and we want to resume the peace talks as soon as possible. We are committed to applying the Security Council's resolutions.

Answering a question on the nature of the solution Mr. Christopher believes will lead to the resumption of the peace talks and the deportees' return to their homeland, and whether he proposes any specific date for resuming these talks, Mr. Christopher said: We are halfway through this round, and we are still establishing relations and obtaining information related to this issue.

Mr. Christopher added: As I have previously said, action regarding the deportees' issue has begun, within which are the seeds for a solution to this problem. I believe that it would not be useful to go beyond this and talk about specific solutions.

Mr. Christopher added: The most important thing I found in the talks I have so far held is that all sides have a firm opinion that it is high time to resume the peace process. I did not find any party with whom I have met or received messages from who wants to foil or relinquish the peace process.

Mr. Christopher said: On the contrary, many sides said that relinquishing this process would have serious consequences. Through my talks, I found a strong commitment to the peace process and to resuming it. He added: I do not want to try to establish a date for that. However, as King Husayn said yesterday, we should not permit too large a break; otherwise we might have to go back to the beginning, which would be quite undesirable.

Answering a question on the issues that have been discussed regarding bilateral relations and ways to improve them, and what President Hafiz al-Asad has offered in return for improving these relations, Mr. Christopher said: My talks with President Hafiz al-Asad covered a wide range of issues. The discussions lasted more than three and a half hours. I do not want to get into the details of the issues we discussed together. However, I can say that there was common ground between myself and President al-Asad.

Christopher added: The peace process is important because it is above all issues and should be given momentum.

He said that President Hafiz al-Asad did not say it is necessary to discuss and analyze other bilateral issues in return for Syria's participation in the peace process. Indeed, on the contrary, President al-Asad expressed an independent desire to move forward with the peace process.

Answering a question on the extent of the linkage between the return of deportees and resuming the peace process, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: The issue does not lie in linking or separating the two issues. As I said, there is no contradiction between the two issues, because they are both aimed at implementing UN Security Council resolutions, which should be supported by the entire international community. There is no doubt that the issue of the deportees has become an obstacle to resuming the peace talks. We must remove this obstacle and also work together to resume the peace talks amid a reasonable and frank atmosphere. As I said, the deportees should return to their homes as stipulated by UN Security Council Resolution 799. The objective of the peace process, which is broader and more important because it is bound to change the face of the region, is to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle. Therefore, we are aware of the difference between the two things and the degree and the level of importance given to the two issues. However, this is an obstacle that has to be removed in order to resume the peace talks in a frank and reasonable atmosphere.

In reply to a question on whether Christopher had discussed with President Hafiz al-Asad an opening in the political regime in Syria and whether he also discussed with His Excellency what could possibly be done to remove Syria from the terrorism list at the U.S. Department of State, Christopher said: We discussed both issues and I do not wish to go into more details about the nature of these discussions. However, these two issues were discussed in the same way they were discussed in other countries I visited during my current tour.

Christopher Departs 21 Feb

JN2102161993 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Damascus, 21 Feb (SANA)—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his wife left Damascus at 1730 today after a two-day visit to the Syria Arab Republic.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', his wife, high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials, the U.S. ambassador in Damascus, and U.S. Embassy staff.

Radio Views Purpose of Tour

JN2102160293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1233 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Syria and the other Arab parties pin great hopes on and attach much importance to the tour of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher who arrived in Damascus yesterday, on the third leg of his current tour. The tour aims to remove the obstacles facing the resumption of the peace talks and help implement UN resolutions in a manner that realizes a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

It is no secret that the current peace process is almost a U.S. initiative from A to Z. It is true that the administration of former President Bush launched the initiative, but Clinton's administration pledged to continue this initiative, and has spared no chance to affirm its commitment as a full partner. Christopher's visit to the region is a demonstration of this commitment.

No Arab party doubts that playing the role of a full partner by Washington is the only way to advance the peace process. Without this, the process will continue to be stalemated by the continuous and artificial Israeli obstacles.

As everybody knows, the peace process was based on the balance of land for peace and the implementation of Security Council's relevant resolutions, which are 242, 338, and 425. From the very beginning, the Arab parties declared, and are still emphasizing, their commitment to these bases. On the other hand, Israel sought, ever since the peace process began, and throughout the eight rounds of bilateral talks, to evade these bases by providing its interpretations that distort the international resolutions and the concept of land for peace. Israel also invented various means to circumvent international legitimacy in order to get both land and peace. The world showed a clear understanding of the Arab position which sticks to the resolutions of international legitimacy as a means for establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region. This understanding was reflected during the first five rounds of the Washington bilateral talks in the pressure employed on Israel, then led by Shamir, to soften its intransigent position until the Shamir government was ousted from power and replaced by a government led by the Labor Party. This government claimed to the world and the Israeli electorate that its assumption of power will bring peace to the region.

It was natural for international and U.S. pressure to be employed on the Israeli side during Shamir's tenure because any unjustified pressure on the Arabs would have meant asking them to abandon the UN and Security Council resolutions, circumventing international legitimacy, and belittling the Security Council and the trends of the international community. All this contradicts the bases of the peace process.

The picture of the situation under the current Israeli Government looks as if nothing has changed since Shamir's era. Although the Rabin government came to power in the name of peace, its practices on the ground and at the negotiating table were no different in essence from the practices of Shamir's government; in fact, these practices are uglier and more obstinate. The present government placed several obstacles to the peace process, to the extent that many world countries began to cast doubt on its ability to make peace. This means that it is still demanded of the Israeli side, as it was in the past, to retract its intransigent position so that the peace efforts will move forward. As was the situation in the past, Washington now, in its capacity as full partner to the peace process, is the party most capable of forcing the Israeli Government to give up its intransigence. But it seems that Rabin's government was encouraged by the process of circumventing Resolution 799 on the deportees, and it went ahead with its continuous attempts to circumvent international legitimacy as far as the Security Council resolutions on settlement in the region are concerned.

The U.S. secretary of state's confirmation yesterday that the United States is committed to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis of a just and comprehensive settlement in the region has come to satisfy the Arab side and to show that Washington is still committed to its position contained in the letters of invitation to the Madrid conference. But this commitment should be translated, in one way or another, into efforts by the current U.S. Administration to force the Israeli side to stop its attempts to circumvent international legitimacy and heed this legitimacy by implementing its resolutions, whether those dealing with the latest obstacle to peace fabricated by Israel, represented by Resolution 799 on the Palestinian deportees, or the other Security Council resolutions which Washington and the whole international community emphasize and which ensure a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Israel's artificial eagerness to quickly resume the negotiations does not deceive, and should not deceive anyone. What has Israel offered in over more than a year of these negotiations in order to advance the peace process? It has done nothing more than place obstacles and attempt

to circumvent and explode the pillars on which the peace process was based. The present artificial eagerness only aims to entrench the precedent of circumventing an international legitimacy resolution, and close the chapter of the deportees on this basis so that Israel will return to the negotiating table armed with this precedent. It wants to resume its maneuvers by withdrawing the cover of international legitimacy from the peace process.

Hence, Washington's success in advancing the peace process in the region largely depends on its ability to uproot this Israeli way of thinking which is destructive to the peace process.

Khaddam Receives Lebanon's Birri, Junblatt, Hamadah

JN2202150293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received at 1300 today Nabih Birri, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies.

Talks at the meeting dealt with the situation in Lebanon and bilateral relations.

'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam also received at 1100 today Walid Junblatt, Lebanese minister of state for refugee affairs, and Marwan Hamadah, Lebanese minister of health and social affairs.

The talks dealt with the Arab situation, and the situation in Lebanon.

Al-Asad, al-Shar' Meet With Libyan Official

JN2002132893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation. The meeting was attended by Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister, and Humayyid Jallud, secretary of the Libyan Relations Bureau in Damascus.

Al-Shar' received 'Umar al-Muntasir this morning in the presence of Taha al-Khayrat, chief of the Arab Homeland Desk at the Foreign Ministry; and Humayyid Jallud. The talks dealt with the Arab developments and the results of the seven-member committee on the Lockerbie affair.

More on Meeting

LD2002201893 Tripoli JANA in English 1826 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Damascus, Nawwar [February] 20, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The president of the sisterly Republic of Syria this afternoon received in Damascus the secretary of the General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation.

Present at the meeting were the Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al Shar' and the secretary of the Libyan Arab brotherhood bureau to Damascus.

The secretary of the General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation this morning held a meeting in Damascus with the Syrian foreign minister during which they discussed Arab and international issues of common interest.

The Syrian foreign minister asserted after the meeting that Syria did not recognize the invalid Resolution 748 and reaffirmed Syria's support for and solidarity with the Great Jamahiryah in her daring resistance against imperialist plots against her orientations in life.

He stressed that Syria stridly rejected the double standard policy in the implementation of the Security Council's Resolution [words indistinct]. He called for the implementation of the resolutions taken by the Council against [word indistinct] Zionists.

Afghanistan

Badakhshan Governor Killed in Plane Crash

LD1902162393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] It is with regret that the Press Office of the Islamic State of Afghanistan reports to BAKHTAR that a plane crashed after hitting the top of a mountain 29 km from Faizabad in Badakhshan province. As a result of the crash a number of vanguards of the Islamic movement of Afghanistan were martyred, including Professor Sayff-ol Rahman Sayeb, deputy to the Supreme Court; Sufi Ghoraban Mohammad, head of the appeal court of Badakhshan province; and Gholam Mohammad Arayanpoor, governor of Badakhshan. We all come from God and shall return to him [preceding sentence in Arabic].

India

Germany's Kohl Continues Official Visit

Meets Rao, Discusses Cooperation

LD1802134993 Hamburg DPA in German 1115 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] New Delhi (DPA)—Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl has received the Nehru prize for international understanding at the start of his four-day visit to India. India is Kohl's first stop in a tour of five Asian states; the others are Singapore, Indonesia, Japan, and South Korea. In the presidential palace in New Delhi on Friday [19 February], Kohl made a speech of thanks for the award, which was allocated to him in 1990. In his speech he recalled Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Indian prime minister, whose legacy he said has been fulfilled in part by the fall of the Berlin wall and the overcoming of the East-West conflict. Nehru's vision of "one world" has become a part of reality, he added. Kohl donated the prize money of 75,000 German marks [DM] to the German committee for "Doctors for the Third World."

The chancellor had earlier met State President Shankar Dayal Sharma and Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, following a colorful welcome. India's political leaders used the occasion to express a desire for more German investment. Hans Peter Repnik, state secretary at the Ministry for Economic Cooperation in Bonn, signed a loan agreement worth DM85 million on the first day of the visit. The money is intended for irrigation systems in eastern India, which should benefit small-scale farmers in particular, and for investment in environmental protection. German industry, linked to Indian partners in around 1,000 joint ventures, also intends investing more than DM2 billion in two coal-fired power stations.

In his meeting with Rao, Kohl stressed that Europe must not be a "cut-off fortress." The EC must not just be concerned with its own affairs despite the "dramatic upheavals" in the world. A positive conclusion to the Uruguay round of GATT talks is important, but even if it fails there must be no trade war, Government Spokesman Dieter Vogel quoted the chancellor as saying. Rao pointed out that Indian companies have invested DM270 million in the former East Germany, especially in the textile and catering industries.

Rao gave an assurance that the administrative obstacles which often stand in the way of investment are to be dismantled. German industry representatives stressed that there is an increased interest in investment. This applies above all to small- and medium-sized industries. The Indian side regretted the fact that Germany has fallen from second to seventh place in the league of investors (current volume around DM400 million a year).

In his words of thanks, Kohl added that in Germany too little importance is attached to India's progress as the most populous democracy in the world. He emphasized the importance of human rights and called for disarmament efforts. Confidence-building measures are necessary, he said. "We would like India to continue to advance along this path along with its neighbors", said Kohl. He welcomed the fact that the Indian Governent has started talks with Pakistan in this spirit.

Economic Ties To Be on 'Fast Track'

BK1902161693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] India and Germany have agreed to strengthen their bilateral economic cooperation with Chancellor Helmut Kohl suggesting a 10-month action plan to put the cooperation on a fast track. Giving a categorical assurance of a major thrust to German investments in India, the chancellor assured New Delhi of all efforts to expand bilateral ties and cooperation in multilateral forums, including the Uruguay round of GATT negotiations. The assurance came during a 2 hour and 15 minute talks between the visiting chancellor and the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi today.

Chancellor Kohl said the on-going economic reforms in India will substantially improve the prospects of German investments. He said his government also wants to expand bilateral cooperation in science and technology. He also welcomed the interest shown by Indian companies for taking up business ventures in the former East Germany. Dr. Kohl said India was a large market and opening up of its economy and Europe with 330 million people can interact substantially in trade and other fields.

The two leaders also covered several international issues. Mr. Narasimha Rao briefed India's position on democratizing United Nations and its practical approach toward issues like environment and nonproliferation. Responding to a suggestion of the prime minister on resuming North-South dialogue, Dr. Kohl said that his country not only supports this, but also wants dialogue between other forums, including G-7 and G-15. He also

called for strengthening interaction between India and Germany in culture, information exchange, and education.

Later, at a meeting with the accompanying business delegation from Germany, several suggestions were made including speeding up of various proposals and giving of long-term visa to experts and businessmen. Mr. Narasimha Rao told them that all these proposals will be examined and included in the fast track to minimize problems faced by businessmen. Dr. Kohl suggested a monitoring mechanism for the action plan and said he would forward to New Delhi the summary of views expressed by the German business delegation.

Human Rights, Nuclear Arms Discussed

BK2002041693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] India has called upon the world community to hold in track countries which advocate terrorism and fundamentalism across their borders. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the German chancellor, Dr. Helmut Kohl, in New Delhi the prime minister made it clear that India cannot accept any covert or overt attempt to undermine the foundations of its democratic setup. Mr. Narasimha Rao said the comity of nations has the responsibility to ensure that the commitment to the cause of human rights is not confused with misplaced sympathy and support for the practitioners of terrorism and secessionism. Referring to the dramatic changes around the world, he called for reforming and democratizing the United Nations to make it more representative of present day realities.

Both, Mr. Rao and Chancellor Kohl stressed the importance of Indo-German economic relations. Welcoming New Delhi's economic reforms, Dr. Kohl said Germany will give every support to India to continue this policy with determination.

On nuclear nonproliferation, Dr. Kohl said Germany is prepared to conduct a comprehensive dialogue with India on all its aspects. The German chancellor extended his support to bring closer regional cooperation in South Asia under SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] auspices. He said Germany would like to see India and Pakistan continue their confidence building process.

Germany To Increase Investments

BK2002081293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] The German chancellor, Dr. Helmut Kohl, has said he is committed to step up German investments in India. Addressing the Indian businessmen in New Delhi today, he said both countries have agreed to form an agenda of economic cooperation. The chancellor said he is keen that his country again achieves the position as a major economic partner of India.

Pointing to the changing economic and political global scenario, he said he has come at a right time to further strengthen relations between the two countries. Dr. Kohl said his country's financial commitment to Eastern Europe and Russia will by no means affect Bonn's economic support to India.

The German chancellor, Dr. Helmut Kohl, visited the Indian Engineering Trade Fair in New Delhi today. During his two-hour visit to the Pragati Maidan, an agreement on cooperation for the construction of two power plant projects was signed between six Indian and German companies. While the first project will be implemented in Tamil Nadu, the other project is meant for supplying energy to the Maharashtra State Electricity Board. The projects together will require an investment of 90 billion rupees.

Holds Talks With Rao 20 Feb

BK2102034093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the visiting German chancellor, Dr. Helmut Kohl, held another round of discussions in New Delhi last evening. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said the focus of the talks was on the follow-up action of the discussions between the official-level delegations of the two countries. Mr. Kohl also called on Mrs. Sonia Gandhi. The German leader will be visiting Ellora Caves and Daulatabad Fort near Aurangabad today.

Kohl: Failure To Sign NPT Not To Harm Ties

BK2202091893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] The German chancellor, Dr. Helmut Kohl, says though his country desires that all nations sign the nonproliferation treaty, the issue of India having not signed will not harm the Indo-German relations. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi today, he said his country is prepared to help narrow down the differences and remove reservations expressed over the issue. He said during his talks with the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, he offered to have a dialogue to discuss all questions about the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty]. He was, however, convinced that the issue will not come in the way of strengthening of bilateral relations.

Answering wide-ranging questions, Dr. Kohl said that India occupies a prime position in Germany's foreign relations and his country admires New Delhi's commitment to a secular democracy. He said he fully supported the initiatives taken by New Delhi to liberalize its economic policies which will bring prosperity to India besides helping its economy to integrate with the global economy.

Kohl Concludes Visit

LD2202091593 Hamburg DPA in German 0658 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] New Delhi (DPA)—Germany is not pressing for a seat on the UN Security Council, Chancellor Helmut Kohl says, but will assert its claim if the body is reformed. Kohl confirmed this to the press today at the end of his four-day visit to India.

Kohl emphasized that the issue of membership is less urgent for Germans than it is for others. He was thus reacting to the question of whether Germany should join the Security Council as a permanent member along with Japan and India. This issue will also play a role during Kohl's talks in Japan, the penultimate stage of his trip through five Asian nations, according to German delegation members.

Kohl reiterated his conviction before reporters that Germany will soon be one of the top three foreign investors [in India] once again. In this context, he underlined the importance of an agreement a five-company German consortium has concluded with two Indian partners. The intention is to build two conventional power stations with a contract value of 5 billion German marks [DM]. German-Indian trade relations—which currently amount to DM6 billion per annum—are capable of expansion, Kohl said.

Before leaving for Singapore, he stressed that Germany is prepared to meet its responsibilities in Asia despite its obligations in Europe. He called upon India to shape its relations with its neighbor Pakistan in a "responsible" manner. Kohl said he encouraged India's leader Narasimha Rao to peacefully seek a lasting solution with Pakistan. Kohl once again called upon India to sign the Nonproliferation Treaty on nuclear weapons, but he did not attach to this any conditions concerning German-Indian cooperation, which he praised. Bonn will continue its development aid. He has offered the government in New Delhi an extensive dialogue.

BJP To Boycott President's Address to Parliament

BK2002125893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has decided to boycott the presidential address to the joint session of Parliament on Monday [22 February]. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party leader, Mr. J.P. Mathur, said this decision was taken at the executive meeting of the BJP parliamentary party.

BJP Urges Government To Reconsider Rally Ban

BK2102165693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Eminent personalities, including former president R. Venkataraman, have appealed to the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] to call off its proposed rally in New Delhi on Thursday [25 February] next. In a joint statement issued in Madras today, they cautioned that the magnitude of the proposed rally is fraught with grave consequences. Others to sign the statement are former Maharashtra Governor Mr. C. Subramaniam; the former chief justice of India, Mr. E.S. Venkataramaiah; and Mr. Ranganath Mishra.

The BJP leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, has urged the government to reconsider the ban on the rally. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, he assured that the rally will be peaceful at all costs.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sends Message to UK's Major

LD2002121593 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] London, Feb. 20, IRNA—In a wide-ranging message to British Prime Minister John Major, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran has criticised the West's double standards on a range of international and regional issues and clarified his government's stance on numerous matters.

While spelling out Iran's own sincerity on foreign relations, his most stringent attack was made against the indifference shown by the international community on the plight of Bosnians and the hypocritical attitude taken towards the Zionist regime.

Most of the issues raised by the President were in relation to various declarations made by the European Community at its last summit in December, which included a desire to develop dialogue with Iran but in a critical way.

Rafsanjani's seven-page response, the first of its kind, is understood to have been relayed to all 12 EC leaders. In London, it was passed by Iran's charge d'affaires Gholamreza Ansari during a meeting with Foreign Office Minister, Douglas Hogg, Thursday [18 February].

One example of how the Iranian Government had served the international community, he said, was in accepting millions of refugees over the past 14 years, whether they be from Afghanistan, from Iraq or from dispossessed Kurds.

Iran's policy opposes employing any kind of force in international relations, categorically denounces terrorism in all aspects, does not intervene in internal affairs and respects both international law and domestic regulations governing countries, Rafsanjani emphasized.

Despite all the false propaganda about the Islamic Republic, its defense budget was by far the lowest in the region, as is borne out by military sales analysts. While on human rights, Iran's was the best in the Middle East.

Rather than the West's double standard attitudes, all Iranian authorities respected human rights, he said. In contrast, Israel was not only aggressive and expansionist but inhumane in its behavior towards the Palestinian people.

The president said that he was very serious about improving mutual confidence and stability in the Middle East through cooperation and based upon international law.

The world and the region was being enveloped in rapid changes and Iran was ready and willing to have both clear and direct negotiations with all countries in the Persian Gulf, he said.

Referring to renewed attempts to politicize the fatwa pronounced on apostate Salman Rushdie, Rafsanjani again stressed that the edict was confirmed by all schools of Islam as had been declared by the Organization of the Islamic Conference in 1989 and categorically stated there was no way in which it could be lifted.

During the London meeting, which lasted 45 minutes, Hogg was understood to have assured Ansari that Major and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd will give a comprehensive, serious and indepth reply in the near future.

Iran's charge had requested the meeting last week but was only advised Wednesday that an appointment had been made. After the talks were publicised, some sections of the British press misreported the news as though the envoy was "summoned."

The Foreign Office denied that the word had ever been used in its briefing. A spokesman said that Ansari was asked to attend the arranged meeting and "certainly had never said he was summoned."

The Rushdie affair figured prominently in the talks, which were described as "business-like," and Hogg was said to have expressed that his government was "deeply disturbed" by recent statements by a number of Iranian figures reiterating the fatwa.

The Foreign Office minister repeated that Britain considered it as an "outrageous infringement" of what he called "Rushdie's rights" and maintained it was a "violation of international law."

In response, Ansari was understood to again have clarified Iran's position on the fatwa, which is a matter of Islamic jurispudence and not of state relations.

Seminar on Rushdie's 'Apostasy' To Be Held

LD2102142993 Tehran IRNA in English 1409 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 21, IRNA—A seminar to define the late Imam Khomeyni's fatwa on Salman Rushdie's apostasy is to be held in Tehran next summer, an informed source at the 15th Khordad Foundation said here Sunday.

The seminar, the first on the subject, is sponsored by the non-govermental 15th Khordad Foundation following a preliminary seminar which was held March 1991.

The foundation has invited all writers and thinkers throughout the world, those from the Islamic countries in particular, to send their comments to the foundation.

Boycott of Western Products Over Rushdie Urged

NC2102213893 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 15 Feb 93 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "The West Is Preparing a New Crisis"]

[Excerpts] The West is preparing yet another challenge against the Islamic Republic of Iran—a challenge that will extend to the entire world of Islam. And this time a new chapter in U.S. policies has opened in tandem with the beginning of the rule of the Democrats in the White House. The Salman Rushdie problem, human rights, terrorism, psychological warfare, economic sedition, and the cultural onslaught all constitute the major pivot of the issue and are prioritized according to time and place. Recently the Salman Rushdie issue is where the West and the European community have been focusing their attention. [passage omitted]

Incidents over the past two years in the world of Islam have given rise to the belief that the official heads of the Islamic countries lack the necessary and effective determination to face this issue, that various problems and crises have made it lose its initial luster, and that it is only Iran that is still insisting on previous stances. But the erroneous beliefs of Britain and the West stem from the fact that they fail to understand the essence of the matter. The Salman Rushdie problem is an ideological and religious problem. No Muslim individual or country can change Islamic decrees; all the pressure on Iran is in vain. [passage omitted]

The political and economic pressures on Iran are actually aimed at weakening and defeating the tried pattern of the Islamic Revolution on the international scene. Therefore, an important point under these circumstances is the need to understand the position and complicated objectives of the West. [passage omitted]

If our threats and slogans have not been very effective so far it is because of these countries' confidence that our economic relations with them will continue. Unfortunately, despite Britain's overt hostilities toward Iran, in recent years our economic relations with British companies have not only not been reduced but have increased. The same applies to Germany. Recently the United States has been added to this list. At a time when the Americans are trying, day and night, to use every possible pressure lever against us—and possibly one of the reasons for this has been their feeling of having been cheated in their effort to find an opening in Iranian markets in the past 14 years—nevertheless we see how our commercial relations with America have increased and how American consumer goods have flooded the

Iranian market. If these relations were based on vital economic interests and were a necessary element for industrial or agricultural progress, we could tolerate this situation to a certain extent. Unfortunately, however, we are witnessing America's commercial presence in the form of consumer goods. Coca-Cola is a good example of this and recently all Iranian markets have been filled with this product. One wonders how this situation can be justified!

With all the pressure that is being inflicted on us, we can and should review our commercial and economic relations with these countries. We should even call on the Muslim countries of the world to follow suit. If need be, the Muslim countries can—by boycotting British, German, and American products—force these powers to surrender. The main source of these countries' power is their economic and military capability. A boycott of British products by Islamic nations would easily end London's impudence. Unfortunately we have always tried to resort to double-dealings in such processes. We are still not in a position to be rendered helpless by the absence of relations with these countries. But if the current process continues, we will be deprived of our element of strength. The more we depend on ourselves, the more we will be able to continue our policies, which will constitute the practical backbone of our slogans.

Of course, this issue should be studied from another angle, that is, the popular and Islamic angle of the issue. If the British and Western mentors of Salman Rushdie want to capitalize on their inhuman act, the Islamic ummah will not remain a mere spectator of their pressures and attempts. Under such conditions no government will be responsible for the independent action by Muslims and the outcome of this situation will have serious consequences for the colonialists.

The level of maturity and alertness that the Muslims have achieved cannot be halted and it is impossible to turn the clock back. Capitalizing on a doomed process and person will only make Britain and the West sorry. This is a warning to the British Government not to insist more than this on hurting the feelings of the Muslims. If they think that with the massacre of the Muslim people in the Persian Gulf war and in Bosnia and with other incidents the Islamic ummah will give in to their sinister efforts, they are very wrong. Islam is an everlasting religion and its mentor is the Creator, whose determination it is that Islamic justice rule the world—and it will. Those who wage a war against the glorious God will, sooner or later, suffer the same fate as the pharaohs and Nimrods in the past.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Spritual, Economic Issues

LD2102182993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Excerpt] At a gathering today of Friday and congregational prayers leaders and clergymen from Tehran province, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani invited them to strengthen the spiritual dimensions and principles that lie at the basis of people's faith and also to explain to them about the country's economic, social and political situation.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani explained that if people are today participating in all arenas extensively and enthusiastically and making sacrifices for the sake of the Islamic revolution, it is because of the correct paths that have been followed since the revolution. He said: People are present on the scene because of Islam and in order to implement Islam and the Koran's divine edicts; and so long as they see Islam as dear and sovereign in the country, they will be present on the scene and will make sacrifices for the revolution.

The president told the country's clergymen: The first and essential duty of the clergy is to strengthen the spirituality and ethical concerns of people; the second is to attend to people's economic and social problems. Just as the esteemed prophet of Islam secured both people's temporal and non-temporal lives, all the dimensions of people's lives should be attended to.

He expressed satisfaction at the outcomes of the government's endeavors and added: The people know very well that reconstruction and infrastructural work require time, and the clergy should, by explaining issues and difficulties, act in such a way that future generations may judge their work in a good light.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: It was easy for the government to secure foreign goods and distribute these in the country at a low price from the foreign exchange it obtained from oil. But the government is determined to reconstruct the country's economy in a fundamental way by investing in infrastructural work. He considered that the single rate of exchange is essential for moving toward the creation of a healthy economy and ending economic offenses which stem from multiple rates of exchange. He said: A single rate of exchange will end economic offenses, and the revenues obtained from this wastage can be spent on social services such as social security and other social needs.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Social and economic vices and offenses should be tackled from the roots and it is not enough to fight against signs and symptoms. Thus, the government's economic policy has been able to end these kinds of vices and hoardings, and the government is certain and hopeful that, with the cooperation of the ulema, the alert clergy and the people, Iran may turn into a developed and economically independent country with few needs. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Army Commanders

LD2002131593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has praised the self-sacrifices of the Armed Forces of the Islamic

Republic of Iran. He said: If the government has no problems in the reconstruction of the country today, this is because of the high morale created during the holy defense [Iran-Iraq war] by the defending forces of the nation and the people of Iran. The chairman of the Supreme National Security Council [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] was addressing a gathering of commanders of the ground forces units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran this morning. He continued: Through their self-sacrifice and with the help of God's blessing during the imposed war, the popular and military forces of the country beat the enemy's head against the wall, so that no other enemy of Islamic Iran will dare repeat the past mistakes of the Iraqi regime.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani reiterated: Our officials have no need to justify the imposed war today. With the ending of the war, the people of Iran are proud that all the territory of Iran has been saved and no conditions have been imposed on them. The enemy was forced to take back its claims on the Arvand River [Shatt al-'Arab waterway] and Khuzestan province and bow its head to the 1975 Algiers agreement. It accepted the conditions proposed by Iran. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: With the help of God and correct diplomacy, all those who claimed during the imposed war that Iran is a warmonger took back their words and admitted to the aggressiveness and bullying of the enemy. The United Nations also officially announced that Iraq was the aggressor.

Speaking of the superiority of the military and popular forces during the holy defense, the president said: Although the enemy was being supported and equipped by many arrogant countries, the defense forces of Iran placed the enemy in a defensive position through planned actions and constant blows. He continued: The cowardly and frightened enemy resorted to striking at our towns and cities because of our forces' superiority and offensive position. Moreover, America's direct involvement in the war, its destruction of defenseless oil platforms, its downing of our Airbus passenger aircraft, and its creation of unsafe passage for oil tankers meant that it too had resorted to Saddam's inhuman methods.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the Islamic Republic of Iran's adherence to humane principles during the war as the shining chapter of the holy defense. He stated: The military forces of Iran never lost their balance as a result of the difficult conditions of the war and continued to adhere to and safeguard humane principles and Islamic ethics. He added: This chapter of the imposed war is an honorable chapter for the Islamic Republic of Iran. Its memory will be a source of pride for the people of Iran forevermore.

In another part of his remarks, the president referred to the violation of basic human principles by the warring sides in Afghanistan and Bosnia-Hercegovina and to the attacks waged against women and children. He declared: No one can accuse Iran of the slightest violation of basic human and moral principles during the war. Unfortunately the world is not aware of that chapter of the holy defense.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The country's defense forces used to transfer wounded enemy soldiers behind the frontlines, operate on them, and give them blood transfusions. During the bombardment of the town of Halabjah in Iraq, that town's women and children were sheltered by our strugglers and our forces protected them as if they were their own mothers and sisters. Also, during the war of the cities [bombardment by Iraq and Iran of each other's civilian areas] we waited for a long term before we finally responded, in some limited cases, and even then we provided warning to the people so that they had the chance to get out of those towns.

Addressing the Armed Forces, the president said: Iran is proud that during its holy defense it observed Islamic criteria and basic human and international principles. You, the Armed Forces, should be proud of that background which should be taught and explained as military lessons by those who instruct future soldiers. He added: Thanks to this virtue, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces will also be able to defend the country's territorial integrity in a satisfactory manner and with high spirit in the future.

Elsewhere in his speech, the president described the participation of the Armed Forces in the country's reconstruction as an effective element in raising their logistic potential and achieving better expert training. He said: With the joint participation of the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps in the reconstruction and handling of development projects, while old equipment and machinery is used to reconstruct the country, the income obtained will also provide the Army with the possibility of purchasing more modern equipment. He added: The government does not expect the Army and other military forces to provide their services free of charge. They can take part in tenders as other companies do and benefit from the result of their work, which is obviously beneficial to the country's armed forces.

In conclusion, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated that the participation of the Armed Forces in the country's reconstruction can be further expanded. We hope that after 10 years of reconstruction those forces will be able to achieve the same virtues as those they gained during the holy defense, he said.

Before the president's speech, Brigadier General Najafi, the commander of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army, presented a report to the president on the ground forces' plans. These plans are aimed at elevating the Armed Forces' military preparedness and ensuring their better utilization of the experiences they gained during the imposed war and their better presence on the reconstruction scenes of the country.

A number of the officials of the Ideological and Political Bureau of the Islamic Republic of Iran's ground forces were also present at the meeting.

Emami-Kashani Friday Sermon 19 Feb

LD1902153193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1202 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani at Tehran University on 19 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In this sermon I am going to talk about the power of Islam and the awakening of Muslims in opposition to the power of arrogance. As history shows, since early times the arrogant powers, especially the Zionists, were engaged in drawing up plans against the groups standing up to them. That is what history shows. Against them there were societies that were defeated. They have been doing the same to the world of Islam for centuries. However, after the Islamic revolution their enmity increased. However, despite the immense mischief they have carried out, Islam has proved that it is powerful. When they were awakened the Muslims too proved how powerful they are.

I will give you examples from the two poles of right and wrong to stress the point. According to some researchers in history—foreign writers whether Arabs and Muslims or non-Muslims and non-Arabs—the arrogant powers, really the Zionists during the early days, went over to Christianity. Of course they only claimed to be followers of Moses but they were liars. They believe in nothing. They laid their hands on Gospels. According to addresses which are given and the research which has been carried out in some books, it shows that a person by the name of Paul raised the issue of the Holy Trinity in the Gospel. Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are put forward by a Zionist. Thus, he brought about the downfall of the Gospel. There are some other issues on the Gospel and the Zionists, which I will briefly mention. In Karl Marx's biography it is said that the same Zionists joined hands with other arrogant powers to give a grant to Karl Marx to go and study in Britain. There he undertook a study and wrote his book on Marxism, or the so-called rule of the masses—that is, communism.

Such individuals can be found in history who used to do such a thing either to Christianity or to other groups. And I knew that in the same vein they would do so to Islam—especially when they say that we must be concerned with religion and have nothing to do with political issues. In the same book that I was reading I realized that the Zionists were the ones who insinuated that notion among the Muslims. However, they were badly rebuked. They might have had success for a while but the Muslims—the faithful and the ulema—rose up to say that they must determine their own fate. The arrogant powers were behind the scenes indirectly passing such ideologies and thoughts to various societies. They used to intervene in the Islamic countries in various ways. The ulema and scholars and those who are quite familiar with history books and narratives know what they used to say against the Muslims. They were confronted by Muslims, however. The ulema know that in several parts of these books and narratives, which I cannot explain on this platform, Israelites made frequent entries. They entered sayings in different chapters, but the ulema of Islam and particularly the Shia and Imamiyah [Shia subsect] ulema stood firm and struck them on the mouth. Thanks to these efforts, they were not able to undermine the Koran. They intended to raise accusations that the Koran had been altered, but they were prevented from doing so. The Islamic scholar Seyyed Morteza said: I swear to God that the Koran and divine revelation is this book which is in my hand. They, however, tried hard and deceived some ulema, particularly the Sunni ulema. But the ulema of Islam stood firm.

The fact that they were resorting to such conspiracies demonstrates Islam's power, the might of the Koran and capabilities of the noble prophet, may God's salutations and benedictions be upon him and his companions. Of course, it is obvious that the enemy thinks of hatching plots. The enemy is strong, but weak in the face of justice. Satan's conspiracies are weak. No matter who the enemy is, his conspiracies are weak in the face of justice, provided the followers of justice remain alert and pursue the matter.

I wanted to give some examples of the treachery and efforts undertaken from the early days against Christianity by the arrogant powers with the cooperation of the Zionists. Moses, the son of Amram, and Jesus, the son of Mary, peace be upon them, are too immaculate to have such followers.

Now all the powers have come together and they are scared of Islam's power, as the Muslims have always confronted them. They will do whatever they can wherever they can, especially after the Islamic revolution of Iran. They saw that the Islamic movement is getting formed in the world. Militarily and economically they did all that they could against us. The same applies in the fields of politics and propaganda.

They destroyed the Babri Mosque. This was a preplanned plot by world arrogance, which includes Zionism among its members. They are plotting. Look at the problem in Afghanistan. A bunch of people called Wahhabis are attacking and massacring the Shiites to that extent. [Reference to Kabul clashes between Islamic Union and Islamic Unity factions] They are raping their women and violating their honor. This is the situation they have created in Afghanistan, this is the enemy's plan. The Muslims must be aware. When did the invading Russian Red Army behave like this toward Afghanistan? Now you are doing this as Muslims toward Shiite Muslims. What is this misery that has afflicted Afghanistan? [passage omitted]

They started the Satanic Verses problem, they published that book. This disgraced person [Salman Rushdie] came and wrote the book *The Satanic Verses*. The imam, may God raise his status even higher, came and said: Spill his blood! [Crowd chants in support] They say that what the imam said has violated human rights and that people should be free [to express themselves]. Why should not Salman Rushdie be free? He has expressed his opinion. They say we regret that Muslims have been insulted; but he has expressed his opinion and he is free to do that. But why did the imam, may God elevate his status, say that his blood should be spilt? I say: Very well, free, let him [Rushdie] be free, then the imam is also free. He is also free. Should a source of emulation be free to announce God's decree, or should he be restrained? How come that malicious person should be free, but that man of God should close his mouth and should not announce God's decree and not implement his duty? Did the imam send troops to Britain? He had only mentioned ... [pauses] ... What the honorable prophet said was that if those five persons, even if they are holding on to the covering of the Ka'ba, holding on to the covering of the Ka'ba in that most auspicious of places [Mecca], you should still kill them there and then. Because those five persons had insulted the prophet. That was the secret. Three of those were men and two of them were women. They had written poems which insulted and mocked the honorable prophet, God save me for saying that. They were reciting those poems and they were dancing to them. Did the honorable Prophet not say that if they are in the house of Ka'ba, holding on to the covering of the Ka'ba; but because they mocked me you Muslims should spill their blood?

Now this malicious person has insulted the honorable prophet and the wives of the honorable prophet throughout the world in that manner. Hundreds of times worse than those five malicious persons who insulted the honorable Prophet. Then the imam announced God's sentence, that simple verdict. He did not send troops, he did not send people there, and did not do anything. He has not interfered in the affairs of another country. He has addressed the Muslims who live in Britain, the Muslims who live in Europe, and Muslims here and there, saying that if you see that blackguard, it is your duty to kill him. It was nothing more than that. How come a blackguard should be free, but Imam Khomeyni, that man of God, should be restrained?

Any treason you commit, you call freedom; any plot you hatch against Muslims you call freedom. You take the same attitude when the great leader of the revolution [Khamene'i] stands so firmly today and says that the auspicious view of the imam must be implemented. It is a religious duty, a religious duty, and a divine decree which is clear in Islam. They are engaging in so much propaganda about it.

As I said, the enemy's plots are strong, the enemy is alert. But history has shown that since the first day the power of Islam and the alertness of Muslims, whenever it comes about, have foiled them all. [Crowd chants "God is Great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to America," "Death to Britain," "Death to Israel," "Death to Hypocrites," and "The American Rushdie Must be Executed"]

It was the imam's awareness, the awareness of Islam's great men, the alertness of the dear leader of the revolution, the awareness of you, the great Iranian nation, that foiled all those plots. If the world of Islam were as awake as this country is—and, as we now see, Islamic movements have started in various corners of the world and Muslims everywhere have become alert—could an empty and vain issue be flaunted all over the world? This happens because the world's Muslims are asleep.

The blatant crimes the Serbs have committed against the people of Bosnia is another act in the secret play. The issue of Lebanon and Palestine, which they have raised again, attempting to bring about a so called peace, is another act. And when you see, nowadays, that arrogant loudmouths keep talking in the news about that evil person [Salman Rushdie] and about Iran, it is because they are scared. They see that Islam has become powerful. They see that Muslims everywhere are looking toward Islam; that Islam is great. The imam repeatedly said: We have power, you are powerful, if you are aware. Those are God's words. You are the best if you are among the faithful [Koranic verse]. The Muslim world would be the master if it were pious, if it adhered to Islam.

The situation is one that the enemy has brought about, indulging in repeated accusations and propaganda, saying Iran wants to obtain nuclear power, and so forth, telling lies after lies, putting into motion propaganda loudmouths against us, mobilizing ignorant and uninformed individuals. God willing, with the alertness and awareness of this nation and the pure Islam which the great men of Islam have bestowed upon this country, and with the holy breath of our imam, which brought up our youths like this, which our leader and dear nation are following, they will foil those plots, and they have done so.

During this economic [word indistinct], the arrogant powers continue to face resistance from our strong government, our powerful Majles, our tripartite powers [judicial, executive, and legislative], powers which rely on our vigilant and alert nation. On the day of the [revolution anniversary] march, our honorable brother, our president, gave us this advice: that we should work for the people. And that is indeed how it should be. These people who are making such self-sacrifices must not be delayed in various organizations. These people who are so self-sacrificing and have displayed such sincerity in their jobs and by taking part in marches, must be looked after more. [passage omitted]

I feel I should also say something about the account opened at the behest of the eminent leader of the revolution for assisting our dear flood-stricken people.

As I said in my first sermon, the auspicious month of Ramadan is the month of caring, the month of assistance. [passage omitted]

Clinton Said Following Bush Policies on Bosnia

LD2102201693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1050 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Bosnia-Hercegovina President Alija Izetbegovic issued a cease-fire order to all that country's forces yesterday and called his move as an effort toward the establishment of peace. He also issued an ultimatum saying that Muslim forces will reciprocate if the Serbs continue their attacks. [passage omitted]

The issue which has attracted the attention of many political circles is the silence of America after two weeks of propaganda hullabaloo over that country's six-point plan.

This inaction of the Clinton administration shows that the same policies of the Bush era are being followed, and only the figure has changed. Otherwise, policies followed by America and the West are the same old fruitless plans which have been packaged in a different way.

Goals of U.S. Proposals on Deportees Viewed

NC2102202293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] A spokesman for the Palestinian deportees has rejected all U.S. proposals for their partial return to occupied Palestine. The spokesman warned U.S. Secretary of State Christopher, who is currently on a tour of a number of states in the region, that the Palestinian deportees will never change their stand insisting on a collective return to their homeland, Palestine, and on implementing Resolution 799 in full.

Reiterating this decisive stand entails a clear-cut warning from the Palestinian deportees to the U.S. secretary of state and a reply to Christopher's most recent proposal to the Zionist entity in which he called for speeding up the investigations being conducted by the Israeli courts to return the deportees in stages.

The White House endeavors to solve the deportees issue are indeed aimed at achieving a number of objectives:

1. To dissociate this issue from the stumbling negotiations, which have been facing a deadlock since the outbreak of the Palestinian deportees crisis. Clinton's government is trying to present various proposals to partially solve this problem to create a suitable atmosphere for the Arab countries to resume the peace negotiations with the Zionist entity.

It is obvious that advancing the wheel of negotiations is a top priority in U.S. foreign policy, as has been the case for years. The importance of gathering the parties to the dispute around the negotiating table is focused on presenting the usurper Zionist regime as a regime recognized in the local political, economic, and social equations.

2. To reiterate the Democrats' stand supporting the Zionists. The new U.S. President has not tried to conceal this point. The new U.S. Administration has made all efforts to obstruct every plan condemning Israel's bestial behavior against the Palestinians—behavior that runs counter to all international laws and norms. The U.S. Administration has also endeavored to freeze Resolution 799. This policy has proven to the Arabs and the world the special and strong relations between the United States and Israel.

Clinton's special envoy arrived in the region to reiterate the biased U.S. stand with regard to the ongoing efforts to solve the Middle East problems. The U.S. envoy is carrying with him what is believed to be the winning card, which supports the alleged U.S. impartiality.

Christopher has proposed that the Zionist entity reverse its previous stands and stop deporting hundreds of Palestinians. He also presented another proposal concerning the immediate return of the Palestinian deportees in stages over a period of several months. All these are proposals presented by the White House to solve this crisis. But all the attempts and moves made by the White House to establish peace in the Middle East are faced with an important question mark concerning the executive guarantees of the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council against the Zionist entity. The Arab and international public is asking the United States, in its capacity as the engineer of peace and mediator between the Arabs and the Zionists, to answer this question since Resolution 799 has failed to force the Zionists to return the Palestinian deportees to their homeland.

May we ask about the fate of Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories? These two resolutions are considered the basis of the current negotiations. Under the circumstances, have the Arabs any hope in the resumption of the futile negotiations? We hope the sleepers will wake up to reality.

Montazeri Urged To Consider Position on Remarks

NC1902143293 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 15 Feb 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Blunt Talk With Montazeri"]

[Text] Last Wednesday on 10 February, Montazeri spoke to his students in Qom. Later the people of Qom learned the content of his speech, which put zealous people in a

rage and led to various reactions. On 23 Bahman [12 February] after the Friday prayers, some of the participants marched to Montazeri's house chanting slogans in support of officials and addressing warnings to him. On Saturday some Qom Seminary theologians organized another march to his house chanting similar slogans. Reports from Qom speak of public rage over Montazeri's remarks to his students in which he portrayed himself as the "mother" of the revolution and others as its "wet nurses." With these remarks he again showed that he remains simple-minded and is still influenced by the satans who led him to oppose the imam.

Montazeri should not forget that the system's current officials begged the imam not to publish a letter on 26 March. Had such a letter been published, Montazeri would have been in another situation and the people would have proceeded differently. In his remarks, Montazeri spoke against those whose efforts gave him the "right to live." The imam's letter of 6 Farvardin still exists; if it is published the people will realize the depth of the issue and will also realize their duty.

Montazeri should be grateful and appreciative of the affection shown him by officials. It would have been better for him to continue his scientific activities within the limits the imam set, not create problems for others. The revolution steadfastly continues its path and on 22 Bahman [11 February—the anniversary of the Islamic revolution], the people again showed that they have accepted continuing the imam's path and that they support the officials because they are faithful to the imam's path. This support is the best reason for the people to consider the officials as being at one with the revolution. The revolution is a roaring sea that will drag to death and humiliation anyone who stands against it. It is a pity for someone who has won back his life to be destroyed by his own hand.

He won't solve any problems by being content with the incorrect news disseminated by the dregs of the perished Mehdi Hashemi's band. [Hashemi was a close relative of Montazeri and was in charge of Iranian-based liberation movements before he was arrested in October 1986] Nor will he solve problems by attaching hopes to analyses by the dregs of the monafeqin [hypocrites—Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] in their press and to their praise of Montazeri in every issue; by attaching hopes to articles by some papers, which every so often try to mention his name on various pretexts; by holding useless meetings with one counterrevolution pseudoscholar or tainted political process or another; or by publishing pamphlets feigning oppression. All those who love the revolution want Montazeri to respectfully remain within the limits set for him by the imam; he should know that this will only be possible if he is not fooled by the veteran bands.

We advise Montazeri to withdraw into solitude to think about what he said on 21 Bahman and to answer this question: Who would these remarks benefit? If he takes this advice he will not be fooled by the veteran bands, who neither want his good nor that of the revolution.

Elections Supervisory Council Members Appointed

LD2102115793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] In today's session of the Guardian Council, the names of those elected as the principal and alternate members of the Guardian Council's Central Supervisory Council for the sixth round of the Islamic Republic of Iran's presidential elections were announced. They are as follows: Ayatollah Qolam Reza Rezvani is appointed head of the supervisory council. Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, Ahmad Alizadeh, 'Ali Asqar Samet, Majid Maleki-Tabar, Mohammad Baqer Nevisi, and Hasan Ganji are appointed principal members. Mohammad Hoseyn Tavala'i, Ezzatollah Dehqan, and Javad Maqsudi are appointed alternate members.

Pakistan

Defense Minister Returns From UAE Arms Show

BK1902155493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] A military delegation of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] will visit Pakistan to assess the possibility of purchasing Pakistani defense items. This was stated by Federal Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah in Karachi today on his return from a five-day visit to the UAE. He said that the UAE has expressed keen interest in our defense equipment, which was displayed at the recently held arms show in the UAE.

The federal minister said that we have purchased spare parts from the open market, because the Pressler Amendment does not apply to such purchases. He also referred to the extension of the lease of the naval vessels acquired from the United States for the Pakistani Navy. He said that we sincerely desire that there should not be any misunderstanding in our age-old friendly relations.

Syed Ghaus Ali Shah said that during his meeting with the French defense minister, he exchanged views on the progress of the purchase of French Mirage-2000 and 2005 types of aircraft. The defense minister also mentioned his meeting with Sir Allen Thomas, chairman of the export cell of the Royal Defense Ministry of Britain. In reply to a question, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah said that he exchanged views on the British offer of supplying Type 21 frigate.

Kanjoo Briefs Senate on Kashmir, Siachen Issues

BK2202084693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] The Kashmir issue has come on international agenda and Pakistan's case would further build up in the days ahead as a result of the consistent policy of the present government. This was stated by the minister of

state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, in Senate this morning.

Replying to a question, he also said that Pakistan desires to resolve Siachen issue through bilateral negotiations with India, but would not compromise its position. Mr. Kanjoo said six rounds of talks between the two countries were held in November last year on the explicit understanding from India that the terms of reference for the talks would be implementation of June 1989 agreement. He said the two sides had agreed to resolve the issue on the basis of redeployment of forces to pre-Simla Agreement position. However, at the talks India insisted on the recognition of on-ground relations [as heard], which was not acceptable to Pakistan. And the talks failed due to India's efforts to set preconditions.